

DENNIS BERGKAMP
WHY IS HE BEING A
PARTY POOPER?

PAUL VALLELY
MEETS A PROFESSOR WHO
WANTS TO KILL BABIES

JOHN WALSH
I COULD STRANGLE MY
NEIGHBOUR FROM HELL

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THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 14 May 1998 45p (IR 50p) No 3,610

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

Blair flies in to rescue 'Yes' vote as Protestants waver

By David McKittrick and Colin Brown

TONY BLAIR flies to Belfast today amid mounting concerns that divisions within the Protestant and Unionist community may mean there is a less than convincing "yes" vote in the 22 May Ireland referendum.

On present patterns the Good Friday agreement is in some difficulty because large numbers of Unionists remain undecided on how to vote.

To gain real moral and political authority the agreement needs to secure a majority of both Protestant and Catholic voters. While Catholics are clearly overwhelmingly in favour of the accord, the necessary Protestant majority does not exist at this moment.

The Government is now depending on the emergence of a decisive pro-agreement swing before the vote. Mr Blair's visit is targeted mainly at persuading Unionist doubters to support the agreement.

The Prime Minister will reiterate his message of a year ago when, soon after his election, he went to Ulster and declared "I value the Union".

Faced with the latest polling evidence which shows a large section of the loyalist community still undecided, he will repeat the assurance he gave to the Unionists when he said: "None of us in this hall today, even the youngest, is likely to see Northern Ireland as anything but a part of the United Kingdom."

Private polling is showing that the nationalist community is strongly in favour of a "yes" vote, but the "do not know" among the Unionists are running as high as 30 per cent, with the rest of the Unionists equally divided between the "yes" and "no" camps. "There is still a large swathe of do not knowers that are yet to be persuaded and that may run right up to polling day," said a Westminster source.

Sinn Féin yesterday voiced concerns that Mr Blair might go too far today in his attempts to woo Unionists, warning that too many concessions might upset republican voters. Mr Blair may well calculate, however, that with Catholic and nationalist votes essentially in the bag, his job is to reach Unionist opinion.

He can be expected to address key Unionist concerns, which centre on the security of the union with Britain and



Protestants going to a 'no-vote' protest rally in Antrim. Campaigners are holding nightly rallies across the Province to drum up support

Photograph: Brian Harris

the questions of decommissioning, the early release of prisoners and the future of policing.

Unionist indecision is not due to apathy, since broadcasters report huge audiences for programmes on the agreement.

It is believed that the recent visit to Belfast by Mr Blair and former prime minister John Major, together with the launch of the Ulster Unionist Party's "Yes" campaign, had a significant im-

pact on Protestant voting intentions. On the other hand, the televising of the rapturous reception given to the Balcombe Street gang at the weekend Sinn Féin and their has obviously produced a negative reaction among Protestants.

One observer said: "It's volatile out there. People are having difficulty finally making up their minds one way or another, but equally they are listening to what is being said."

The "No" campaign led by the Rev

Ian Paisley has meanwhile stepped up its activities, holding almost nightly rallies all over Northern Ireland to drum up opposition to the agreement.

At Prime Minister's Questions yesterday, Mr Blair condemned the "tribunalism" of men who had been involved in IRA killings at Sinn Féin's weekend conference. "The victims of violence have suffered enormously. We do not forget their suffering. I do believe that the peace agreement gives

us the best way forward to ensure that there are not more victims in the future," he said. He repeated his demands that all parties to the peace deal should accept the Good Friday agreement in its entirety. He was responding to fears voiced by Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble that Sinn Féin might take the benefits of places in the assembly and prisoner releases, without fully signing up to the deal.

"Minister for victims", page 4

The truth behind tragedy of Child B

By Jeremy Laurence
Health Editor

VENOMOUS disagreements between the cancer specialists involved in the care of Child B, the 10-year-old girl who became the centre of worldwide media attention after the National Health Service refused to fund a second bone-marrow transplant for her leukaemia, are revealed in a report published today.

The first detailed study of the case, which was presented as the worst example of NHS rationing when it occurred in 1995, shows a bitter dispute between the paediatricians who felt she should be allowed to die in peace and the adult leukaemia specialists prepared to buy more time at any cost.

Child B, later identified as Jaymee Bowen, who died in May 1996, was the heart of millions when she was shown on a BBC *Panorama* programme in October 1995 delivering a crushing riposte to the managers of Cambridge Health Authority for refusing to fund the £75,000 cost of her extra treatment.

"Thank you for nothing. Because now look at me, I'm fine. You could have paid for it. You had the chance and you blew it," she said.

The King's Fund report says: "The central issue was less to do with finance than what care was appropriate for a child with Jaymee's medical history."

The paediatricians at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, and the Royal Marsden in London attacked the "maverick medicine" practised at Hammer-smith hospital and the private Portman clinic in London, where she was finally treated, saying that they were prepared to go ahead whatever the human cost. The adult specialists in turn castigated the "paediatric mafia" with their conservative and inflexible attitudes.

Jaymee's last days, page 16
Leading article, page 18

£300,000 payout for policewoman

By Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

A FEMALE detective who was nicknamed "Massive Cleavage" and victimised when she complained of sexual harassment was awarded an estimated £300,000 yesterday.

Dee Mazurkiewicz, 42, had her career with Thames Valley police ruined by a campaign of intimidation and insults including claims she obtained confessions from suspects by getting her boobs out.

An industrial tribunal in Reading, Berkshire, ruled in her favour last November, but yesterday the force agreed to pay her compensation. This is believed to include £221,000 for very one of the 14 years remaining of her career.

A police source, however, suggested that the undisclosed payment was in fact significantly lower.

The Police Federation, which represented Ms Mazurkiewicz, described the award as a landmark decision. It said other cases had not gone the whole way: they had either been settled outside tribunals or decisions have been appealed against by police forces.

Thames Valley police is currently appealing against another tribunal ruling in favour of a female officer, Kay Kellaway, who won a sexual discrimination case last October.

Ms Mazurkiewicz said yesterday: "It is a great relief for me that this is finally over. It has taken four years of my life. 'It has been very difficult for



Mazurkiewicz, whose career was ruined by campaign

me. I feel very emotional. I have won my court case but I have lost my job. I have lost an awful lot.

"My career was what was important to me and no compensation can make up for that."

Ms Mazurkiewicz will retire from the force on Sunday on the grounds of ill health.

Sandline boss backed by Gulf war general

By Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

THE HEAD of Britain's forces in the Gulf War gave a personal recommendation to a foreign politician supporting Tim Spicer, the man at the centre of the Sierra Leone affair, it emerged last night.

General Sir Peter de la Billiere, gave a "favourable reference" for Col Spicer, who was once a personal aide, according to Chris Haiveta, then deputy prime minister of Papua New Guinea.

The country later engaged Col Spicer's company, Sandline International, to recapture a rebel-held mine but the operation ended in ignominy. Col Spicer was arrested and the government of the former British protectorate was forced to resign.

In 1991 Col Spicer spent six months as military assistant to Sir Peter, then the most senior British officer in the Gulf. Five years later, after Col Spicer had left to set up the mercenary firm

Sandline International, Mr Haiveta asked Sir Peter about Col Spicer, after his company had been recommended to his government. Asked if the general had provided a good reference, he replied: "Yes, he did and indeed Spicer was his MA or executive officer or someone like that."

Yesterday, Sir Peter confirmed through an aide that he believed he had been asked about Col Spicer and had responded with some "general comments" about his character. He had no knowledge of Sandline. His agents, Curtis Brown, said the conversation did not amount to a reference.

The inquiry report into the affair reveals a number of parallels with recent events in Sierra Leone. Customs and Excise officers are investigating claims that Sandline broke a United Nations embargo against the African country with the knowledge of Foreign Office officials.

Papua New Guinea officials told last year's inquiry that they met Mr Spicer in London, in

April 1996, on the same day as they also met Foreign Office officials to talk about arms purchases. They also said they believed they were recruiting serving British soldiers and not mercenaries.

After Col Spicer was arrested in March 1997, he used the British High Commissioner's residence to give a press conference.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook was yesterday heading for a clash with the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. He is expected to rebuff a demand from the committee to hand over telegrams sent by diplomats in Sierra Leone to the Foreign Office.

The Labour-dominated committee agreed the move in a private session before the Foreign Secretary's Commons statement yesterday.

However, Mr Cook told the House that such telegrams were "restricted in circulation" as they could contain material "embarrassing to Her Majesty's Government and others".

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10 die in riots

TEN people were killed in rioting after Indonesia's opposition leaders called on the army to join them in deposing President Suharto. Page 14

More N-tests

BRUSHING aside the worldwide denunciation of its three nuclear tests on Monday, India yesterday exploded two more devices. Page 13



TOMORROW IN THE EYE

32 Pages of Film,
TV and Music

■ Cannes Special Talk of the town:

David Lister
interviews Mike
'Primary Colors'
Nichols

■ Sleazy does it: Geoffrey McNab the steamier side of the festival

■ Sometimes it's hard to be a man:

Almodovar opens
his heart with
'Live Flesh'

■ The week's films with Ryan Gilbey

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Recycled paper made up
41.4% of the raw material for
UK newspapers in the
first half of 1997.

Detective in Lawrence case admits mistake

By Kathy Marks

THE former senior detective who led the investigation into the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence admitted yesterday that he should have arrested the prime suspects within 48 hours.

Ian Crampton, a detective superintendent until his retirement, told the public inquiry into the black teenager's death that he decided that the best strategy was to defer arrests, although the five youths eventually charged were repeatedly named by police informants in the first two days.

"With hindsight, knowing what I know now, I would have arrested earlier," he said. "What I know now is that the strategy was unsuccessful because it didn't work. Hindsight would tell me quite clearly that the other option may well have worked."

The inquiry has heard that no arrests were made for two weeks after the killing. Charges against the five suspects - Jamie and Neil Acourt, Gary Dobson, Luke Knight and David Norris - were later dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service, and a private prosecution by the Lawrence family also failed.

Mr Crampton, who handed over to another senior investigating officer three days after Stephen was stabbed to death in Eltham, south-east London in April 1993, told the inquiry that information about the existence of two potential witnesses never reached him. It might have "put a wholly different complexion on the inquiry," he said.

Officers on his squad also failed to pass on promptly two "clearly important" tips they received about the identity of the alleged killers, he added.

Cross-examined by Michael Mansfield, QC, counsel for the Lawrence family, Mr Crampton denied ever having had dealings, "socially or professionally", with David Norris's father, Clifford, a well-known criminal who was reputed to have bought off police officers.

He said that when David Norris was named by informants, he did not link him with Clifford, who at the time had been wanted by police for four years for alleged murder and drugs smuggling. "It did not ring bells with me that this 17-year-old boy had been a member of that family at all," he said.

Mr Mansfield asked him: "When the name David Norris came up, are you saying as the senior investigating officer that the notorious south-east London criminal family of the same name never occurred to you?"

"That's correct," he replied. Mr Crampton said he deferred arrests because of a lack of evidence. He rejected a suggestion that there were "other forces at work".

The inquiry was told that he adhered to his strategy even after a statement was made by Stacey Benefield, the victim of an attempted stabbing the previous month, naming Norris and Neil Acourt as his assailants.

Mr Crampton conceded that it was "the single most negative decision" that he made, and acknowledged that the grounds on which the five were eventually arrested "applied with just as much force" two days after the murder.

The inquiry continues today. A memorial plaque at the spot where Stephen died has been vandalised for the second time in just over two months.



A sunbather uses a tried and tested means of protection in Bournemouth yesterday

Photograph: SCPA

EU ban on tobacco adverts faces challenge in courts

By Katherine Butler
in Brussels

AN ALLIANCE of the tobacco and newspaper industries is to launch a legal onslaught on an EU tobacco advertising and sponsorship ban approved in Strasbourg yesterday.

The European Parliament approved proposals for a ban which is to be fully effective within eight years. It leaves member-states with no option but to change laws to phase out all tobacco publicity and sponsorship of sporting events by 2006 at the latest. The lengthy phase-in was designed primarily to accommodate British

complaints about the effects of a sponsorship ban on Formula One motor-racing.

But opponents vowed to attack the EU treaty basis used to justify the clampdown. Robert Toet, of the Confederation of European Community Cigarette Makers, said: "It has nothing to do with harmonising the single market... the directive unlawfully usurps the sovereignty of member-states to determine their own health policies."

Sir Frank Rogers, chairman of the European Publishers Council, said: "MEPs have participated in an undemocratic process. We are now preparing our legal challenges at national

level in every EU member-state to stop implementation of this directive". David Hangar, publisher of the Economist and chairman of the European Advertising Tripartite, said the ban would not reduce the number of young people smoking. "This will not happen by restricting the freedom to advertise in Europe's press those products which are legally on sale".

Clive Bates, director of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), said there was a danger that legal objections could delay implementation of the legislation. Under the directive, print media will have to cease

carrying cigarette advertisements within four years. Tobacco-industry sponsorship for all events, sporting, cultural or otherwise not organised at world level will be illegal after five years. Sponsorship of events organised at "world level" will have to be eliminated within eight years or by October 2006 at the latest.

Supporters fear legal challenges could be used by Germany and Austria, which opposed the ban but lacked the votes to block it when it was put to the council of ministers, to stall its implementation. Austria takes over the EU presidency from Britain in July.

Challenge to new Aslef leader

By Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

THE SHOCK victory of the hard left in the election for the leadership of the train drivers' union is expected to be challenged in the courts. The Independent understands.

Senior officials at ASLEF are considering legal action against Dave Rix, a senior activist in Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour party, who defeated incumbent Lew Adams in the poll for general secretary.

One allegation which may be levelled by the present ASLEF leadership is that members of the SLP at the RMT, the rail industry's biggest union, interfered in the election process.

It was announced last week that Mr Rix had won by 4,558 votes to 3,337 for Mr Adams. The unexpected defeat of the present general secretary was expected to usher in a new era of industrial militancy because of the victor's membership of the hard-left party, a Marxist organisation which believes in industrial confrontation rather than negotiation.

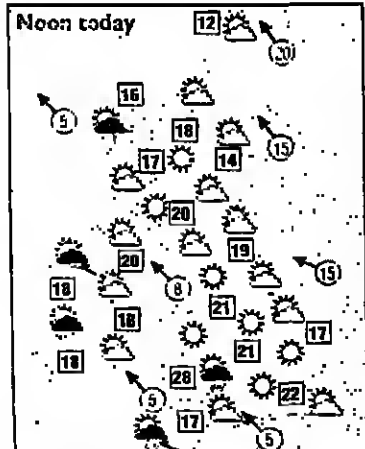
The union's executive yesterday "noted" the election result and instructed Tony West, ASLEF deputy general secretary, to investigate the legality of the poll process.

Another allegation levelled at Mr Rix is that he took two to three months' sick leave from his job as a driver with Regional Railways North East and used it to campaign throughout Britain. The union's constitution attempts to ensure there is a level playing field between candidates, with strict rules about resources used in campaigns.

The SLP's success at ASLEF is seen as a major blow to leaders of other unions which are attempting to foster an image of moderation.

The present leadership of the union will face a considerable battle against Mr Rix, considered to be an expert on ASLEF's constitution.

WEATHER



It will dawn misty across much of the country with patches of fog but there will be plenty of warm sunshine coming through in most places. Sea-breezes will make coastal areas cooler. Eastern coasts of Scotland and England will be coolest and breeziest but with less cloud than recently. Showers and isolated thunder downpours will develop locally over south-west England, the Welsh mountains and Northern Ireland, and perhaps north-west Scotland later.

Outlook for the next few days
Those showers over north-western parts of Scotland will clear away by Saturday, leaving it dry across the country with a fair amount of sunshine. The hottest spots are going to become a bit less warm, with a fresher feel to the weather, but it will be pleasant nonetheless. The nights will turn colder than recently but most areas will still stay frost-free. Patches of mist or fog could develop in the small hours, clearing quickly in the mornings.

British Isles weather

Most recent available figures at noon local time.
C: Celsius; F: Fahrenheit; W: Wind; S: Sunshine; S: Skies; Sh: Showers; S: Snow; Th: Thunder.

Aberdeen	F 13.55	Glasgow	S 22.72
Anglesey	S 20.68	Leamington	S 17.63
Ayr	S 18.64	Liverpool	S 22.72
Belfast	C 14.57	Isles of Scilly	14.57
Birmingham	C 17.63	Jersey	F 19.66
Blackpool	S 19.66	Liverpool	F 17.63
Bournemouth	C 23.73	London	C 21.70
Brighton	F 24.75	Manchester	C 21.70
Bristol	C 18.64	Newcastle	M 11.52
Cardiff	F 17.63	Oxford	C 18.64
Cardle	S 18.64	Plymouth	F 16.61
Dover	F 16.61	Scarborough	C 13.55
Dublin	F 11.52	Southampton	C 24.75
Edinburgh	C 12.54	Southend	S 20.68
Exeter	F 21.70	Stamford	S 17.63
Glasgow	F 13.59	Torquay	C 14.57

Air quality

Yesterday's readings

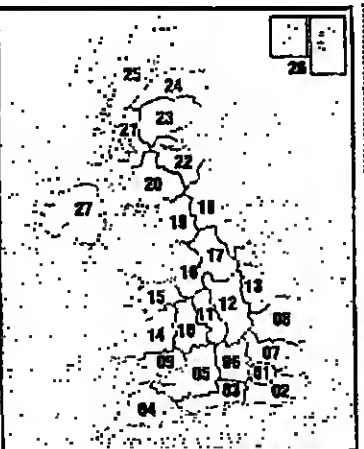
London	Good
S. England	Good
Wales	Good
C. England	Good
Scotland	Good
N. Ireland	Good

Outlook for today

London	Good
S. England	Good
Wales	Good
C. England	Good
Scotland	Good
N. Ireland	Good

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INDEPENDENT Weatherline
For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area indicated by the above map. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min at all times (inc VAT).

High tides

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	04:16	7.0	16:33	7.1
Liverpool	01:28	8.1	13:45	8.8
Aberdeen	05:36	12.7	21:56	12.7
Hull (Albert Dock)	08:45	8.3	21:07	8.1
Greenock	03:00	3.2	15:05	3.0
Dun Laoghaire	01:43	3.9	14:10	3.7

Lighting-up times

London	21:21	05:19
Birmingham	20:55	05:12
Bristol	20:54	05:19
Glasgow	21:20	05:10
London	20:44	05:09
Manchester	21:01	05:09
Newcastle	21:05	04:59

Sun & moon

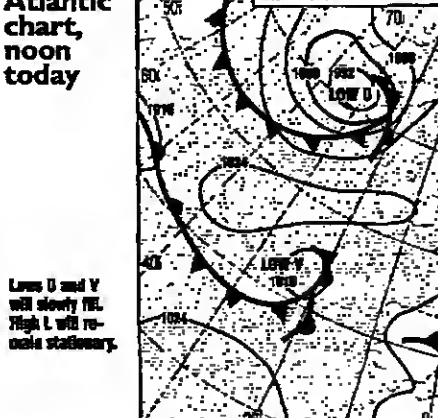
Sun rise:	05:11
Sun set:	20:44
Moon rise:	13:22
Moon set:	01:26

World weather

Most recent available figures at noon local time.

Aberdeen	C 10.63	Buenos Aires	F 19.54	Buenos Aires	F 19.54	Madrid	F 19.54
Albuquerque	F 12.73	Calgary	F 14.15	Calgary	F 14.15	Manila	F 27.81
Algeria	C 20.63	Edmonton	F 14.15	Edmonton	F 14.15	Mexico City	C 29.84
Amman	C 22.72	Halifax	F 17.53	Halifax	F 17.53	Moscow	F 18.64
Amsterdam	S 20.68	Harbin	F 17.53	Harbin	F 17.53	New York	F 18.64
Ankara	C 18.64	Havana	F 23.73	Havana	F 23.73	Osaka	F 18.64
Antwerp	C 18.64	Heidelberg	F 17.53	Heidelberg	F 17.53	Seoul	F 18.64
Athens	C 24.75	Helsinki	F 17.53	Helsinki	F 17.53	Singapore	F 31.88
Auckland	F 17.63	Hong Kong	F 24.75	Hong Kong	F 24.75	Sydney	F 18.64
Bahia	F 19.54	Hyderabad	F 17.53	Hyderabad	F 17.53	Taipei	F 18.64
Bangkok	C 29.84	Istanbul	F 17.53	Istanbul	F 17.53	Tokyo	F 18.64
Barcelona	C 20.63	Jakarta	F 24.75	Jakarta	F 24.75	Yokohama	F 18.64
Berlin	C 23.73	Kuala Lumpur	F 24.75	Kuala Lumpur	F 24.75		
Bombay	F 24.75	La Paz	F 14.15	La Paz	F 14.15		
Boston	F 17.53	London	C 21.70	London	C 21.70		
Buenos Aires	F 19.54	Los Angeles	F 17.53	Los Angeles	F 17.53		
Calcutta	F 24.75	Lyons	F 17.53	Lyons	F 17.53		
Calgary	F 14.15	Manila	F 27.81	Manila	F 27.81		
Cardiff	F 17.63	Mexico City	C 29.84	Mexico City	C 29.84		
Cardle	S 18.64	Moscow	F 18.64	Moscow	F 18.64		
Dover	F 16.61	New York	F 18.64	New York	F 18.64		
Dublin	F 11.52	Osaka	F 18.64	Osaka	F 18.64		
Edinburgh	C 12.54	Seoul	F 18.64	Seoul	F 18.64		
Exeter	F 21.70	Singapore	F 31.88	Singapore	F 31.88		
Glasgow	F 13.59	Sydney	F 18.64	Sydney	F 18.64		
		Taipei	F 18.64	Taipei	F 18.64		
		Tokyo	F 18.64	Tokyo	F 18.64		
		Yokohama	F 18.64	Yokohama	F 18.64		

Atlantic chart, noon today



Low L and V will slowly fill. High L will remain stationary.



WILLIAM HARTSTON WEATHER WISE

WE HAVE been taken to task by a reader in the frozen north. Sue Couling writes: "Hottest day of the year? Why are you kidding? Yesterday [Monday] I was wearing jumpers and coat and needed to put the heating on. It poured with rain for most of the day. I live in York - only a few hours from London but obviously far enough to be insignificant. Weather Wise failed to notice that a large proportion of the country were shivering on the 'hottest day of the year'... It is plain

that London is the centre of the known universe - as far as the media are concerned."

I can only plead guilty. As our weather listings on Tuesday clearly noted, while London was enjoying its Cloudy, 18, York was shivering in Cloudy, 9 - the coldest place listed in this country.

The trouble with British weather is that conditions vary enormously over relatively short distances. The prevailing westerly winds caused by the earth's spin bring us damp air from across the Atlantic. Chilled by Arctic air currents, or by rising over hills and mountains, it deposits most of its rain on the west coast. That is why the west (and especially the south-west) has up to twice the rainfall of places in the east of the country. At the start of this week, the south of the country enjoyed a warm air stream from Africa - but it did not blow as far north as York. In future, I shall try to keep an eye on the weather up there.

At 12.43 yesterday, the temperature in Hillsborough was 13C with 83 per cent humidity and barometer reading of 1022.

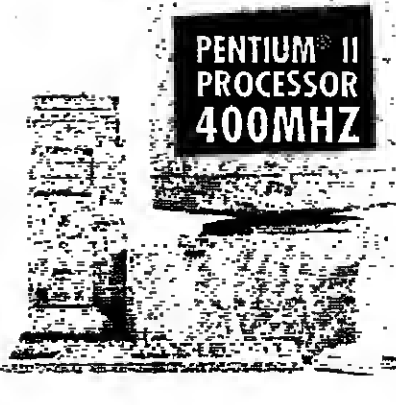
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*Source: Intel Corp index 7.0 comparing the Dell Pentium II Processor 400MHz/Intel 440BX chipset and the Dell Pentium II Processor 350MHz/Intel 440BX chipset. **Source: IDC.

World expert on medical ethics is condemned by doctors for saying that new-born children with severe disabilities should have their lives ended by lethal injection

The man who would kill disabled babies

By Jeremy Laurence
Health Editor

DOCTORS' leaders yesterday condemned an expert on medical ethics who called for babies with severe disabilities to be given lethal injections to end their lives.

Professor Peter Singer, deputy director of the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University in Australia, said that in cases where doctors and parents agreed that a

baby's disabilities were so overwhelming as to be incompatible with a decent quality of life, it would be kinder to end the baby's life deliberately rather than leave it to die.

"The standard practice is to withhold treatment such as antibiotics or in some cases feeding so the babies do die either from untreated infections or from starvation and dehydration," he said on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

"I think that is cruel and inhu-

mane. It causes unnecessary suffering to the infants and their families. Once you make a decision that it is better that the baby dies you ought to be able to make sure that it dies easily and swiftly. That means by giving it a lethal injection."

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health said that although there were cases in which it might be appropriate to withhold or withdraw treatment there was no justification for killing children.

Guidelines on when to withhold or withdraw treatment were issued by the college last year.

Professor Richard Cook, consultant neo-natologist and spokesman for the college, said: "What I feel about people who want to bump patients off is that they are doing it for themselves. It is very difficult for doctors faced with patients for whom they can do nothing surrounded by parents and nurses who are distressed. The eas-

iest thing is to bump them off. I don't think that is the right thing to do."

The guidelines specify five situations in which it may be right to withdraw treatment, if the doctors, nurses and parents agree. They include a child who is brain dead, a child who has no chance of survival and for whom treatment may prolong their suffering and one who may survive but who would be so impaired that treatment would in effect add to their suffering.

The British Medical Association said there was a key ethical distinction between killing and leaving a patient to die that lay at the heart of a doctor's duty to their patients. Dr Bill O'Neill, its science and ethics adviser, said: "There is a very important difference between withholding treatment and deliberately doing something to end a patient's life. Patients are not just left to die - all efforts are made to ensure they are comfortable and they do not suffer."

Professor Singer, who is in the UK to give a series of seminars, was challenged on the *Today* programme by Jacqueline Lang, a lawyer and author of *Human Lives*. She said: "We can eradicate suffering by eradicating the sufferer. It matters how we get good results. We cannot use any means to achieve an end, however good that end might be."

But he said he was "concerned for the needless suffering which exists now, as a result of current practice".

The guru of animal rights ensnared in a moral maze

By Paul Valley

PETER SINGER looks weary. He is resigned to being called the professor who wants to kill babies. It is not what he came here to talk about. He is here to give series of lectures and seminars in London, Oxford and York on "Darwinism and Politics" and "Animals, Ethics and the Environment".

The trouble is that this philosophy professor does believe that disabled babies should, in certain circumstances, be given lethal injections and, if asked he is not disposed to deny it.

And he was asked about it yesterday, on Radio 4, after a tabloid diatribe had been launched almost as soon as he got off the plane from Australia where he is director of the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University. If doctors, parents and the legal system have concluded that a new-born baby is so brain-damaged that it should not be given treatment, or food, he said, then it would be kinder to administer a lethal injection to end the infant's suffering.

To make matters worse Professor Singer is the man who in 1976 wrote *Animal Liberation*, the seminal work which first popularised the idea of that animals have rights and gave birth to a worldwide movement of animal activism. So animals have rights, but disabled babies don't?

No wonder he looked weary.

"I don't want to run away from what I have written," he said when we met yesterday. "Let me explain. When I got involved in ethical issues I discovered that it is standard medical practice for doctors to make life-and-death decisions on whether new-born babies are considered fit to survive."

"These are cases where the child would have what one judge has called a 'demonstrably awful' life. One case was a Downs' Syndrome baby whose digestive system was blocked. In others there were decisions that spina bifida babies did not have to have the operation performed to relieve the pressure on the brain. But the result of implementing these decisions was the withholding treatment or food - which meant that the baby died slowly of complications, starvation or dehydration."

A lethal injection seems a more humane option, he said, to relieve the unnecessary suffering of the child, parents and healthcare staff.

There are two problems with this. It makes certain assumptions about the basis on which we value human life. And it takes for granted that there is no difference between killing someone and allowing them to die.

Utilitarian philosophers like Singer call the latter the "act/omission" fallacy. If an action, or an omission, produce the same effect they have the

same moral worth, they argue. "Actions are right or wrong according to their consequences," he said. "If the outcome or results of an act and an omission are the same they have the same moral value."

So neglecting to send food to a Sudanese refugee camp is morally equivalent to sending a warplane to strafe the occupants, because they die either way? "No, to send an aircraft

shows that you want them to die. To neglect to send food shows that you are indifferent."

But what if you are shooting them to save them a lingering death from starvation? "That's not very likely, but if that really was your motivation, then perhaps it would be acceptable," he replied.

Common sense tells us otherwise. There might be no difference in logic between action

and omission yet the idea of killing a disabled baby violates some deep taboo within us. We sense that actions are worse than omissions, rather like our sense that telling a lie is somehow worse than not telling the truth.

Because our moral sense on this is intuitive, I suggested, that does not mean it is muddled sentimentality or moral cowardice. "My guess is that our

intuition has developed over the centuries in which we have been taught ethics as a system of rules," Singer replied.

But those centuries of Judeo-Christian morality are over, he believes. "We have now entered a new era - [which he thinks began with the ruling to allowed doctors to stop feeding the Hillsborough victim Tony Bland] - one in which we look at the quality a human life may

have rather than talking about its sanctity."

Which brings us to the second problem with Singer's view. How, in this brave new world, are we to measure quality of life? By the ability to reason? By the ability to feel? By consciousness? That seems a good enough criteria, Singer replied. Isn't there anything about human life, and how we respond to it, which might be symbolic or sacramental?

No, says Singer, it is all about allowing everyone the maximum reign for their preferences and interests. People and animals too. In the end some animals might be more morally important than some human beings.

Such is the outcome of the utilitarian calculus. It is where, if we abandon the notion of absolute values, we will inevitably end up.



Peter Singer: "We have now entered a new era - one in which we look at the quality a human life may have rather than talking about its sanctity."

Photograph: David Rose

Prince Philip angered at report of royal row over Emperor's award

By Diana Blamires

THE Duke of Edinburgh yesterday issued a strong denial that he spoke out against the Queen's decision to award Britain's highest order of chivalry to the Emperor of Japan.

The statement followed a story in yesterday's *Times* which claimed that the Duke had privately expressed reservations about the decision.

In a statement yesterday a Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said: "The Duke has not expressed any view, privately or publicly, over the award of the Order of the Garter to the Emperor of Japan."

"He is well aware of the painful memories which the War caused to people, both from his own wartime experiences and from meeting veterans and ex-prisoners of war over the years since."

"For very many years, Prince Philip has worked for reconciliation and for a greater understanding between the two countries."

It is understood that the Duke has not ruled out making a complaint over the report to the Press Complaints Commission.

Survivors of Japanese prisoner of war camps yesterday condemned the decision to confer the award on the Emperor

of Japan. Members of a former civilian internees group met in central London to condemn the award of the Order of the Garter to Emperor Akihito. They also demanded an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister before the Emperor's visit to Britain later this month.

The campaigners want a "meaningful apology" and compensation from the Japanese government for their suffering during the Second World War. The outcry came after the Duke of Edinburgh's denial.

The Japanese head of state will receive the award on his visit, which begins on 26 May.

Keith Martin, chairman of the Association of British Civil-



Emperor Akihito: award has angered POW groups

ian Internees - Far East Region, said yesterday: "I think the Garter is an order too far. It seems an insensitive thing to do. Here is an order that was given to people like Winston Churchill, Montgomery and other great British leaders. What has the Emperor done that is chivalrous?"

Rival fails to stop British Airways launching its 'no-frills' airline

By Michael Harrison

BRITISH AIRWAYS was yesterday cleared to launch its no-frills European airline "Go" next week after the rival low-cost carrier easyJet failed in a High Court challenge.

Mr Justice Tuckey refused to grant easyJet an injunction which would have effectively stopped the launch of Go on the grounds that it was being illegally subsidised by the parent airline BA. But the judge turned down BA's bid to "strike out" a pending action by easyJet, which operates out of Luton airport, claiming that Go will be in breach of European Union competition laws.

The ruling means that, although Go can start flying its 143-seat Boeing 737s a week tomorrow with introductory return fares of £100 to Rome, Milan and Copenhagen, it will still be open to challenge when easyJet's action comes to trial. Barbara Cassini, the American chief executive of Go, said she was delighted by the ruling but disappointed the action had not been struck out. "This allows us to get on with the launch of the company without restrictions on where we can fly and how we can develop the business."

Go is expected to announce at least one further route in the next four weeks. The easyJet ac-

tion, meanwhile, is expected to take six to 18 months to reach court. easyJet's injunction claim was based on the allegation that BA, with its "bottomless pit" of funds, having guaranteed Go's leases on the eight aircraft it planned to fly, gave Go an unfair advantage over smaller competitors.

But the judge said to grant an injunction would be pointless. It would not stop the new operation and would serve only to cause considerable disruption. Go has advance bookings from 30,000 passengers.

In any event, the judge added, Go had not so far announced any plans to fly on easyJet's routes. There was

nothing for easyJet to complain about, apart from a future threat of unfair competition.

Refusing to block easyJet's claim completely, the judge said the company did have an arguable case that BA was abusing its dominant position in Europe to the potential detriment of undistorted competition within the EU.

easyJet - pioneers in the no-frills market which now includes Virgin, Debonair and Ryanair - accuses BA of "predatory behaviour" and failing to give "transparent" assurances or publish financial statements from which the amount of any subsidy to Go could be deduced.

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Black and white love cut from 'Primary Colors'

By David Lister
in Cannes

THE director of *Primary Colors*, the top film at the Cannes Film Festival, was yesterday accused of cutting an interracial love scene between Emma Thompson and black British actor Adrian Lester.

Emma Thompson plays the Hillary Clinton figure in the film, none too loosely based on the Clintons' journey to power. Lester plays the campaign manager.

In the novel from which the film is adapted, the two of them have a one-night affair. In the movie which opened the festival last night, although Lester comforts Thompson when she hears of her husband's infidelities, the pair just stare at each other meaningfully.

At a press conference in Cannes yesterday, veteran director Mike Nichols was challenged by an American journalist that he had "cut out an interracial love scene".

Nichols replied: "I did have it cut out after the first preview. I didn't think about the interracial element. I took part of the scene out of the movie because there was disappointment [in the preview audience] that these two were meant to be the good guys."

"They were meant to be more steadfast than this. I cut it down but not out. If you're looking for it, it's there."

John Travolta, who plays the Clinton figure, Jack Stanton, delighted questioners by revealing that President Bill Clinton, far from being hurt by the movie, invited Travolta to come to a party in character so that the two of them could do a speech together.



Emma Thompson and John Travolta, stars of *Primary Colors*, strut their stuff at Cannes yesterday

Photograph: Brian Harris

"I declined," Travolta said, "because I decided it was best to leave the character on the screen and not do parties. I think that shows the President's sense of humour. I was very tempted for a moment but I withheld my urge."

Emma Thompson interjected intriguingly at that point, saying: "He doesn't often hold his urge."

Thompson and Travolta both give excellent performances as the President and First Lady in the film which opens in Britain in August.

Thompson plays Susan, a First

Lady ruthlessly determined to help her husband to power and equally determined to survive in her marriage while implying her increasing suffering from the humiliations and embarrassments at the public disclosures of infidelities.

Thompson, in newly cropped, red hair set off by a bright orange sundress, stole the show at the press conference, clowning around when she wasn't speaking fluent French and translating for her colleagues.

She said she was "terrified" of the opening gala. "I

hope the frock's all right," she said. "I was out in the sun yesterday so I've got all different colours."

Travolta said that Mr Clinton, who he knows socially, had not yet seen the film which has opened in America to good reviews but only average box office receipts.

It was interesting that Thompson and Travolta appeared to disagree about the cleverness of the characters they play in the film.

Thompson declared: "This woman has got more intelligence in her little finger than

he's got in his whole body."

But Travolta claimed: "The man has high integrity in his political urges and I think he is a decent man. He is a complex human being."

"There's a naïveté and innocence about this character which our own President has - I hope."

Thompson claimed she had not based her characterisation on Hillary Clinton: "I didn't want to do an imitation of her because that would be just an excuse to make people think 'what has she got wrong?'"

It was more thrilling for me to

create an imaginary character."

Anyway, she added, Ms Clinton spoke so rarely on television "partly because she is not given much of a voice. It's funny that the First Lady is the first person to hit the glass ceiling."

Travolta said he played the President as a composite of several presidents, "but mainly it reflects on Clinton".

Injecting an inevitable luvvish touch, Thompson said that, in making the film, "we cried a lot actually. You get to a point where you think 'that's so true about people!'"

Press told not to feed World Cup xenophobia

By Janine Gibson
Media Correspondent

THE Press Complaints Commission yesterday fired a warning shot across the bows of the tabloids in the hope of averting a re-run of xenophobic Euro 96 for France 98.

The PCC chairman, Lord Wakeham, asked editors to ensure that, in the run-up to France 98, "their reporting and comment does nothing to incite violence, disorder or other unlawful behaviour, or to foster any form of xenophobia that could contribute directly to such incitement."

The statement was issued as the PCC ruled on a *Daily Star* headline in March which criticised the French authorities' allocation of World Cup tickets to English fans. The headline, "Frogs Need a Good Kicking", was described as "a misjudgement" but within the Code of Practice. The PCC received 300 complaints from readers over tabloid coverage of Euro 96, particularly in the build-up to England's semi-final clash with Germany.

Headlines such as the *Mirror's* "Achtung! Surrender" and war references were felt by many to have misjudged the mood of the nation and sparked fears of hooliganism in an otherwise peaceful tournament.

The PCC later said the tone of some of the reporting around Euro 96 was wrong but did not single out any newspaper. Yesterday Lord Wakeham appealed to tabloid editors not to incite violence among fans.

"We want to have robust reporting of the World Cup and we don't mind people being partisan - of course not, we want British teams to win."

"But I don't want any news-

papers inadvertently, or in any other way, inciting fans to violence and to cause trouble. I thought a warning was the right thing to do."

The editor of the *Sun*, Stuart Higgins, declared the question to be one of "that terribly ill-defined word, taste", upon which the PCC is not able to rule. He backed the *Star* in criticising the French: "In many ways the French, in the way they've handled the ticket allocation, deserve a good kicking... I mean, it is disgusting the way our fans have been deprived of getting tickets."

Speaking for tabloid editors, Mr Higgins added: "Our reporting will be geared by good headlines. There's going to be triumph, there's going to be joy, there's possibly going to be disappointment, and all our headlines have got to be eye-catching and sensational."

"It's of great personal interest to us to report it responsibly and to get behind our boys."

"We're not going to go out and say 'we're going to invade France', or encourage our fans to behave in a hooligan-type way."

"But the thing works both ways. The French have got to recognise that our fans want to go and see our team play, and play in the big tournaments and give us the right to actually get the tickets."

The PCC, a self-regulatory organisation, is made up of newspaper editors and representatives from outside the industry. Its Code of Practice deals primarily with privacy, opportunities to reply and corrections.

The *Daily Star* yesterday published the PCC's ruling and statement on its Frogs headline, in the spirit of self-regulation.

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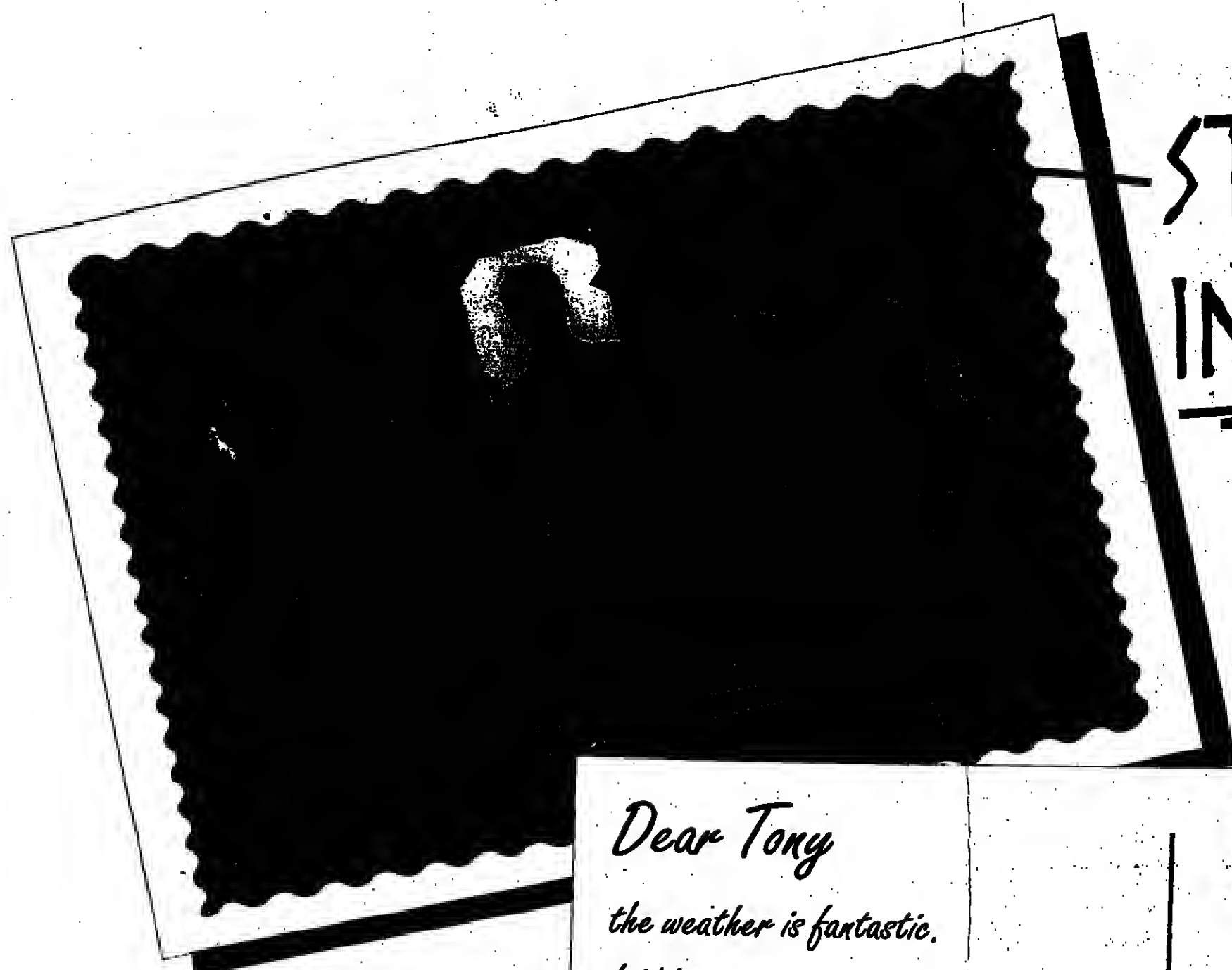
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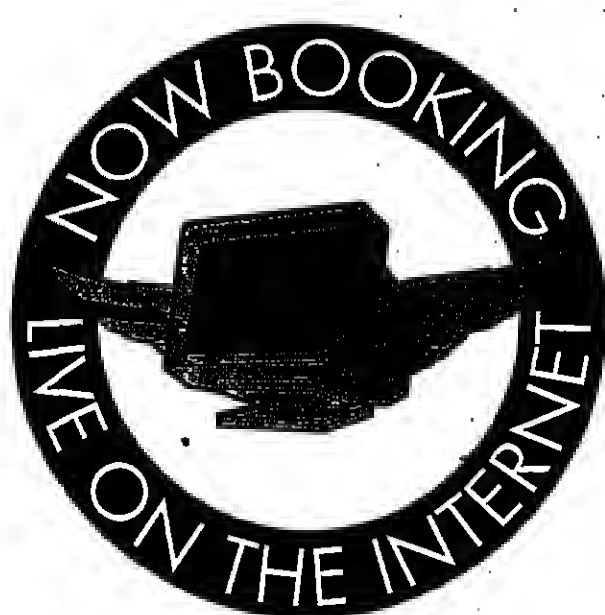
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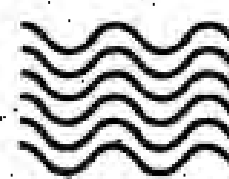
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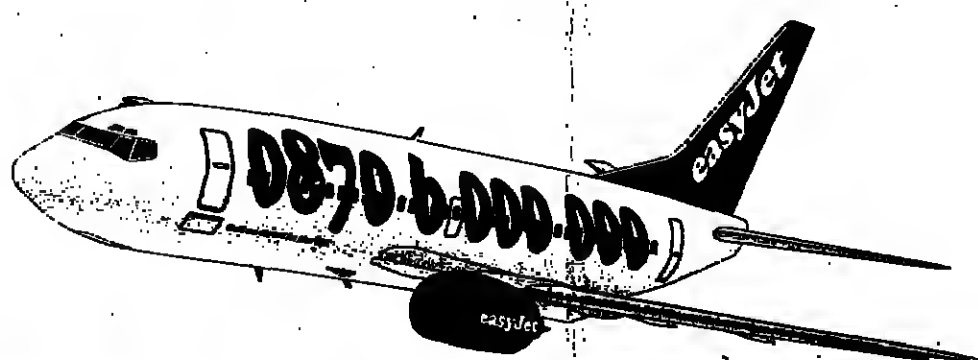
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Birth pioneer cleared of misconduct charge

By Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

AN EXPERT on foetal medicine was yesterday cleared of serious professional misconduct by the General Medical Council.

He had been accused of making flippant and offensive remarks to a woman patient whose unborn twins died in an operation he carried out.

But Professor Kyriacos Nicolaides told the GMC that he was in tears after the babies' death which he called a "human tragedy" for both their mother Jennifer Sabin and for himself.

Speaking after the hearing, Professor Nicolaides said: "I am immensely relieved that my name has been cleared of these charges. I am deeply saddened by the fact that I was not able to save the babies of Mrs Sabin."

Mrs Sabin was undergoing keyhole laser surgery for the rare and usually fatal "twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome", a procedure developed by Professor Nicolaides and carried out by him 117 times. The syndrome occurs when the blood vessels in the placenta deliver too much to one twin while the other receives not enough.

Mrs Sabin had alleged that the professor made jokes about her knickers, made disparaging remarks about Newcastle and made sexual comments to the friend who accompanied her. She also alleged that he shouted "your babies are dying" during the operation and swore.

But the professor told the GMC's professional conduct committee that his only concern had been the well-being of his patient and her children, and that his comments had been an attempt to put her at her ease.

Mrs Sabin from Morpeth, Northumberland, told the GMC on Tuesday that when she asked for painkillers Professor Nicolaides joked with a group of student doctors observing the operation, saying: "These are the womeo from Newcastle, they cook their men their dinner, then go out and get drunk, then they come back and beat the women and they have sex with them, and she wants painkillers."

Professor Nicolaides admitted making comments along these lines, saying that experience had taught him that it was



Jennifer Sabin (right) and her friend Helen Potts, who were deeply upset by Professor Nicolaides' approach

often useful to be "provocative" to calm patients' nerves and relax them.

He denied that the comments were directed at the group of students or that they had been made in response to a request for painkillers.

Professor Nicolaides accepted Mrs Sabin's allegation that he had put an arm round her friend Helen Potts, who had come with her to the hospital to offer support, but denied that this was a sexual overture. He said: "I put my arm around her not for comforting her, but as a gesture of welcome."

He agreed that he had greeted Mrs Sabin and Mrs Potts as "the beautiful women of Newcastle", but again denied that this was a sexual approach.

The doctor, who has won a world-wide reputation with his pioneering work on foetal surgery at King's College Hospital, south London, said he tried to involve patients fully in every stage of their treatment and that this was why he told Mrs Sabin, after she began to haemorrhage that her babies were dying.

Dr Neil Sebire, who assisted with the operation, said that the professor made a point of encouraging an informal atmosphere at the hospital's Harris Birthright Centre, which he had set up to treat women experiencing difficult pregnancies. He told the hearing: "It is a unique unit in that a large pro-

portion of the patients have foetal abnormalities. "Almost by definition, every single patient in the unit is traumatised. You are telling

them potentially the worst news of their lives. Part of the rationale of the unit is at least to get patients relaxed."

He denied that Professor Nicolaides - who managed the pregnancy of Mandy Allwood, the West Midlands woman who conceived octuplets after fertility treatment but miscarried in October 1996 - had been "playing to the audience" during the operation on Mrs Sabin.

Dr Sahire said: "He always comes in and speaks to the patients. His policy is much stricter than in any other department I have worked in, in that you are under no circumstances allowed to ask him any question while the patient is in the room. He will not let any doctors ask him any questions."

After the hearing, Professor Nicolaides said: "I'm very grateful for the patience and support of my colleagues and very pleased that I will be able to continue to work with my patients, who I have devoted all my life to."



Professor Nicolaides: 'Immensely relieved that my name has been cleared, but saddened that I was unable to save the babies'

Firms risk penalties for 'bug' deaths

By Barrie Clement
Labour Editor

COMPANIES could face prosecution for deaths and injuries caused by a failure to get to grips with the "millennium bug".

The Health and Safety Executive yesterday warned that while it was still attempting to persuade organisations to tackle potentially dangerous problems associated with the millennium, it would "lose patience" by the start of next year.

Clive Norris, director of safety policy at the executive, said that he was "concerned rather than alarmed" by the number of organisations - largely among the 3.7 million small and medium-sized firms - which had not come to terms with the bug.

Mr Norris said that the HSE would begin using "enforcement notices" to make sure businesses assessed all possible risks and would issue orders closing down processes if necessary. The ultimate penalty for flouting advice in dangerous circumstances would be legal action leading to fines of hundreds of thousands of pounds and, in extreme cases, imprisonment.

The executive pointed out that computers can confuse many of the dates around the millennium with an instruction to close down. This could have a potentially disastrous impact on the nuclear, oil and chemical industries or any other sector involved in hazardous processes.

The HSE has targeted companies involved in such activities, but believes that the big organisations have already taken the necessary measures. The potential problem is that smaller sub-contractors are involved in the installation and

maintenance of plants and may not be fully responsive to safeguards introduced by the big companies.

Launching a guidance pamphlet "Health and Safety and the Year 2000 Problem", the HSE warned about so-called "embedded chips" in systems - which might be integral to processes but could escape inspection.

Smaller companies are also involved in providing fire and security alarms which could be vulnerable to the millennium bug. Such equipment could fail to activate or could register false alarms. Lift companies might also fail to undertake maintenance because electronic systems often control the frequency of inspections.

The executive reiterated its advice that computer problems could occur on a number of dates around 2000, because the combination of digits could be misinterpreted. Difficulties could occur on 1 January and 9 September next year and in 2000 on 1 January, 29 February, 1 March and 31 December. There could also be a problem on 1 January 2001.

Mr Norris said that time was running out for businesses to assess potential difficulties. "Those that find they do have a problem need to set about tackling it too - and the sooner the better."

He pointed out that there were only 150 working days before computers encountered difficulties.

"Doing nothing is not an option. At the very least you should identify whether you have a problem or not," he said.

Mr Norris argued that the skills required to deal with the millennium bug were in heavy demand. "They will be scarcer and more expensive, the longer you delay."

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Dorrell broke rules by failing to declare interest

By Anthony Bevis
Political Editor

THE whip-band over what Conservative frontbenchers can and cannot do in the Commons was broken by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, yesterday.

Sir Gordon said in a report that Stephen Dorrell, the Tory spokesman on Education and Employment, broke a Commons rule by initiating a debate on trade union recognition last month – because he is a director of a clothing firm that does not recognise trade unions.

He said Mr Dorrell's action was a breach of the post-Nolan advocacy rule, barring MPs from initiating a debate or question with a specific and direct impact on their private interests.

The all-party Committee on Standards and Privileges took the rare step of disagreeing with Sir Gordon, and cleared the former Secretary of State for Health of any misconduct.

But it then added a ruling that will shock the Tory benches, where so many outside business interests are concentrated.

"A case which falls very close to the borderline should serve as a reminder to all Members who may have occasion to initiate parliamentary proceedings, that they should be cautious in doing so on matters which touch their registrable interests, and should first seek the advice of the Commissioner or the Registrar of members' interests."

They also ruled that Mr Dorrell should have declared his interest in the April debate.

The idea of Conservative frontbenchers being forced to clear their actions with an official before they are allowed to make a political move will dismay old hands in the Commons.

But the unanimous Standards and Privileges Committee decision to reverse Sir Gordon's ruling could also be read as a retreat from the standards introduced after Lord Nolan's 1995 parliamentary sleaze report.

Dennis MacShane, the Labour MP who laid the complaint against Mr Dorrell, said yesterday, however, that William Hague had to decide whether he wanted a full-time opposition or "a part-time frontbench who will be constantly embarrassed as

they decide whether it is more important to have nice little earners outside Parliament, which they will always have to declare when attacking the Government."

He released a list of 19 Conservative frontbenchers who had financial interests in firms which could have an impact on debates and questions they could be expected to raise in the House.

"From corner shops to energy prices, from property development to Asda, from insurance firms to private medicine, Mr Hague's team have their noses stuck deep in the extra-parliamentary trough."

"Hague has to clean up the Tory frontbench because more and more of them will be exposed when they initiate debates in the Commons."

Mr MacShane, who has already forced Mr Hague to switch Michael Fallon from his Trade and Industry team to the Treasury team after he neglected to declare an interest in the House on low-wage nursing homes, said he would be watching to make sure that Tory frontbenchers submitted themselves to Sir Gordon's prior restraint on their actions.



Prince Charles pots a red during a visit to The Arches after-school club, which helps troubled children return to education. Photograph: Arthur Edwards

Blunkett praises 'quiet redistribution' of wealth

By Judith Judd
and Claire Garner

A NATIONAL consensus including both rich and poor is the only way to tackle disadvantage, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education said yesterday.

In a lecture on social exclusion in Southwark Cathedral, south London, Mr Blunkett said that the Government had to persuade the middle classes that the whole of society benefited if the lot of the poorest improved.

He spoke forcefully of the ways in which the Government is bringing about the redistribution of wealth – a subject that New Labour has sometimes shied away from.

As a result of the Budget, the poorest half of the country would have more to spend – that was "quiet redistribution". Redistribution would also come when the Government's plans for the minimum wage were implemented.

Mr Blunkett rejected the notion that there was "some sort of battleground between

the worst off and the best off".

Children at The Arches, an after-school club in nearby Camberwell, where more than half the children and adolescents arrive having been expelled from school, would benefit from redistribution.

Many have a history of gang activity and 68 per cent have been arrested by the police. These are the truants who the Government promises to do something about.

After spending time at The

Arches, their attitudes change. Every member returns to education, many with ambitions to become barristers, artists or accountants.

The options at The Arches are indeed many, as Prince Charles found out when he paid a visit yesterday afternoon. Besides the activities – art, music, sport, drama – there are counsellors on site and special needs teachers who can help with schoolwork. There is a pool table too, where the Prince of Wales potted a red.

Political donations a 'bonus' for honours candidates

By Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

DONATIONS to political parties should be regarded as a bonus rather than a minus, when honours are being handed out, the head of the committee which scrutinises the awards said yesterday.

Lord Pym, a former Conservative Cabinet minister, said the fact that someone had given money proved their commitment.

He told the Neill committee on political funding that other achievements were also important in deciding who should receive political honours. While political donations were a fac-

tor they were not the only one, he stressed.

The Political Honours Scrutiny Committee considers honours awarded for political services, which amount to about 50 of the 1,000 handed out each year.

"If someone gives their money to a party, that is a bonus rather than a minus because they are supporting what they believe in with their own money. I would regard it as a plus rather than a minus point that people put their money where their mouth is," he said.

He confirmed that his committee had turned down candidates for honours, but he did not believe that people had

ever been put forward for political honours solely on the grounds of political donations.

There was speculation that the scrutiny committee might never have been told the names of donors to Labour's blind trust after the party's fundraiser, Lord Levy, told the committee he did not pass on that information. However, a party spokesman said later that the chief whip, Nick Brown, had passed the names to the committee.

Lord Levy said he believed the blind trusts should be wound up but defected their use before the last election. They had been effective in keeping donors' names secret from beneficiaries, he said.

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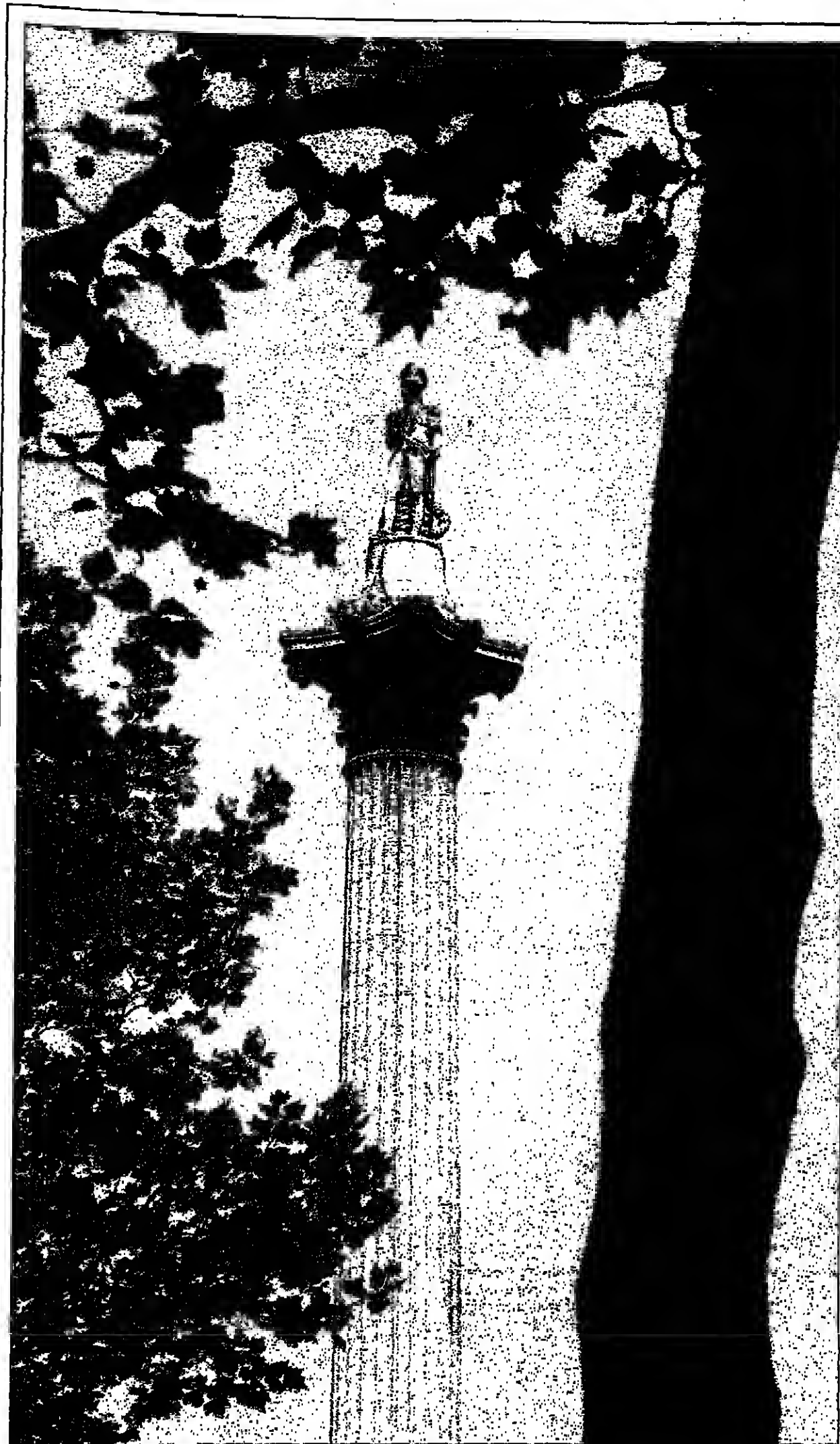
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Greenpeace campaigners atop Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square yesterday to protest against the destruction of the Great Bear rainforest on the west coast of Canada. The protest was timed to coincide with a visit by the Queen to celebrate the reopening after refurbishment of nearby Canada House. Photograph: David Sandison

Rape claim woman 'did not lie to police'

A WOMAN who alleged that she was raped by a cousin of mass killer Fred West when she was 15 denied yesterday that she was lying to share in the "glamour" of the Cromwell Street inquiry.

The woman, now in her 30s, told a jury that the man, William John Hill, raped her in an upstairs bedroom of his village home in the late 1970s.

She and another woman gave accounts of how they were allegedly raped as schoolgirls by Mr Hill, 45, of Near Green Close, near Ledbury, Hereford and Worcester. He denies their claims, and two other alleged rapes of teenage visitors.

The woman, now in her 30s, told the jury at Birmingham Crown Court that Mr Hill attacked them when they separately visited his home in the village of Much Marcle. They al-

leged that he also indecently assaulted them in a garden shed. One said she was raped five or six times, aged 13 and 14, when out for drives in his three-wheel Robin Reliant car.

The other alleged victim said she was raped once - when a 15-year-old virgin - in a bedroom at Mr Hill's home. She insisted she had not made up a statement to Cromwell Street inquiry officers in September 1995 when she claimed to have seen Fred West at his Gloucester home.

She denied making up the claims because she wanted "to jump on the bandwagon" after bodies were discovered in Much Marcle and in Gloucester. She also denied lying to get money from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for the abuse she allegedly suffered.

The trial continues today.

Academics stand firm over 'illegal' pictures

By Ben Russell
Education Correspondent

ACADEMICS condemned the police last night for seizing pictures by controversial photographer Robert Mapplethorpe from a university library, and warned of a creeping erosion of freedom of speech.

The Association of University Teachers (AUT), meeting in Worthing this week, called for action to back the University of Central England which could face prosecution over pictures in one of the late photographer's books, deemed offensive and illegal.

The university's vice chancellor, Dr Peter Knight, has refused to destroy two pictures from the book and challenged the West Midlands Police to take the case to court. The

Crown Prosecution Service is considering whether to go ahead with a prosecution under the Obscene Publications Act after a darkroom worker called police while developing pictures from the book for a student's thesis.

Last night York University academic Joanna de Groot, a member of the union's national executive, said study of material like the Mapplethorpe pictures was "the stuff of universities" and praised Dr Knight's stand.

The AUT general secretary David Treisman told delegates: "A culture of intervention of all kinds in what universities do, a culture of disregard for academic freedom is significant enough for the police to believe it is absolutely normal to consider asking a university to burn books."

Impotence pill 'can damage men's eyes'

By Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

VIAGRA, the new drug for impotence can cause damage to eyesight for those who over-use it, scientists have claimed.

In sufficient doses it could cause damage to the retina of the eye, the *New Scientist* magazine reports today.

The erection pill has taken America by storm. Less than three weeks after its launch, doctors in the United States had written an unprecedented 113,000 prescriptions for Viagra.

The pill even received an endorsement from the former presidential candidate Bob Dole, and the drug looks set to have the same effect in Britain.

But it is known to have a side-effect that causes "blue vision" and some eye experts fear that Viagra may do more than that, even in sufficient

doses damaging the retina. Viagra works by inhibiting an enzyme called phosphodiesterase, which allows more blood to flow into the penis.

A similar enzyme exists in the cone cells responsible for colour vision in the retina. It is the effect on this enzyme that leads to a perception of the colour blue, and which is concerning eye specialists.

The drug is thought to mimic a condition where levels of phosphodiesterase are abnormal.

"This has ophthalmologists worried, because people with congenitally abnormal phosphodiesterase suffer irreversible damage to their retinas over time," said the report in the *New Scientist*.

The American Academy of Ophthalmologists is now pressing Pfizer, the drug company which manufactures Viagra, to

conduct more studies. Michael Marmor, an eye specialist at Stanford University in California, told the magazine: "The company has not measured the electrical activity of the cone cells in the long term."

But Pfizer said that rigorous tests at doses well above the recommended level had shown no clinically significant effect on vision in either the short term, or the long term.

There are also already fears that some men wanting to reclaim youthful vigour are taking higher than recommended doses despite their doctors' warnings.

In the clinical trials which convinced the American Food and Drug Administration to approve Viagra, the "magic bullet" drug quadrupled men's success at having sexual intercourse and significantly improved the quality of their

erectons. In one study, men receiving 100 milligrams of Viagra, the highest recommended dose, doubled their frequency of erections.

But one sexual health expert told *New Scientist* that the reality of Viagra's performance did not match the hype.

However, James Barada, of the Center for Male Sexual Health in Albany, New York, said that many of the men in the trials had achieved intercourse in the previous three months and so were not clinically impotent. He claimed that only one-third of men who were genuinely impotent, were able to have intercourse after taking the drug.

Mr Barada, who has written more than 150 prescriptions for Viagra, said: "I consider them Viagra failures. You don't take a drug just because it helps a little bit."

Women protest as US men get Viagra on medical insurance

THREE weeks after the little blue pill went on to the market, it emerges that men in United States who have obtained the impotence drug on prescription have a 50:50 chance of persuading their health insurance company to pay for it. Women, on the other hand, who are prescribed the contraceptive Pill, must usually pay for it themselves.

This has been seized on by women's groups as a discrepancy amounting to sexual discrimination. If insurance companies pay for men's Viagra, why not the Pill for women? Their irritation is all the greater because doctors are prescribing Viagra not just for clinical impotence, but for what is euphemistically called "enhancement".

One doctors' group, the American College of Obstetri-

Cost of the contraceptive Pill rankles, reports Mary Dejevsky in Washington

cians and Gynecologists, which has a larger proportion of female members than most US medical organisations, is now lobbying Congress to pass legislation requiring insurers who pay for prescription drugs as a matter of course, also to cover the Pill. Insurance companies, the group's spokesman said, were demonstrating "a clear bias".

The insurance companies offer two arguments: cost and need. The costs, they say, are not comparable: the contraceptive pill is used by millions of women for decades at a time, while the current rate of Viagra prescriptions is running at 300,000 a week. Insurance companies are

also limiting the number of Viagra pills they will pay for, to between four and 10 a month. Even with the Pill costing between \$20-30 (£12.50-18.75) a month, and Viagra costing between 10 and 12 dollars per tablet, the total cost to the insurance company of covering the Pill will be far more than covering Viagra. The College of Obstetricians responds by citing the costs of unwanted pregnancies.

The insurance companies also argue that impotence is a clinical condition, while the decision to use contraception is elective - an argument which has the full sympathy of the anti-abortion lobby.

The apparent discrepancy in the treatment of men and women also derives, in part, from the US health system, which is mostly private and employer-linked and regulated differently from state to state. Many insurance companies say they offer plans that cover all prescription drugs, including the Pill, but most companies do not select them on grounds of cost. This is an "employer decision", said a spokesman for the Health Insurance Association of America, not an "insurer decision". Six states mandate some reimbursement of contraception costs, but nine out of ten US women with insurance must pay.

The incipient women's revolt over Viagra could prompt a reassessment of contraceptive cover. But the likely result will be higher premiums for all.

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Women's jail where suicide has claimed seven lives

By Ian Burrell
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE SUICIDES of seven young women in a Scottish prison have prompted the Government to undertake wide-ranging reform of the treatment of female inmates north of the border.

Henry McLeish, the Scottish home affairs minister, yesterday promised to take steps to minimise the number of women sent to jail. He pledged to halve the female prison population within two years. Mr McLeish

was forced to act after the publication of a critical report by Scotland's chief inspectors of prisons and social work, who were called in to investigate after seven women took their lives over a two-year period at Scotland's only all-female prison, Cornton Vale. Two of the victims were 17 years old.

Among the findings in the report was that well over a third of all women in custody in Scotland have attempted to take their own lives at some stage, usually outside prison, and 82 per cent had experienced

"some form of abuse" during their lives.

Cornton Vale is a modern jail on the outskirts of Stirling, opened in 1975 as Scotland's first purpose-built prison for

women. Although it was designed to create a "relaxed atmosphere", prison reform groups said yesterday that it had instead acquired a reputation as a "suicide jail".

Scotland's chief inspector of prisons, Clive Fairweather, called for more television sets in cells at the prison to reduce the potential for "morbid contemplation". Televisions in cells

have been described by American experts as "the best babysitter ever", he noted.

Mr Fairweather pointed out that less than 1 per cent of the 200-strong Scottish female pris-

oner population were violent offenders and most were being punished for "petty offences".

Yesterday, Clare Sparks, of the Prison Reform Trust, said that many of the problems identified in Scotland were also being experienced by female

prisoners in England and Wales who were often starved of purposeful activity. "There is a major problem with self-harm," she said. "We are constantly hearing that women are bored and don't have anything to do." She said that the female prison population in England and Wales had doubled in the past five years and at more than 3,000 was at its highest level since 1905.

The Scottish report calls for facilities to be opened up for women prisoners at Inverness and Dumfries jails, which are predominantly for male prisoners, and for more to be done to reduce the number of women sent to prison for non-payment of fines.

Scotland's chief inspector of prisons is calling for the provision of more television sets in cells at Cornton Vale to reduce the potential for "morbid contemplation". Photograph: Chris Watt

The inspectors called for the creation of a powerful group to resolve at local level the issues identified in the report, including prosecutors, police, the prison and health services, and voluntary bodies.

They also recommended that Cornton Vale be reshaped with more shared accommodation for inmates.

After one of the longest inquiries in Scottish legal history last year, a sheriff concluded that no one was to blame for the six suicides he studied, and he ruled that no "reasonable" precaution could have been taken to prevent the deaths.

Almost 90 per cent of inmates at Cornton Vale have taken drugs, including many of those who committed suicide. Chris Tchaikovsky, director of the London-based trust Women in Prison, said yesterday that more young female inmates would take their own lives unless they were given access to drug rehabilitation units.

Mr McLeish promised a positive response to the report which he described as a "watershed" for the criminal justice system in Scotland.

He said: "For the first time we have a distinctive focus on the position of women in the criminal justice system, and the Government is absolutely committed to using this heightened awareness to match policy need."

But he said no decision would be taken on the report's recommendation to end the practice of jailing women under 18 before the completion of a major study into young offenders in Scotland which is exploring how the jailing of boys and girls under the age of 17 can be minimised.



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DAILY POEM

On Warhol's 'Tunafish Disaster' and 'Red Elvis'

By John Kinsella

Did a leak kill Mrs Brown? Did a leak
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out when faced with their cool bodies, eyelids
drooping, while he, with blurred vision could see

with thirty-six sets of eyes, still lusting
after the days when lithium was a

tasty table salt? Or when Dick Nixon
relied on him to set the kids straight and

the FBI struck a deal to make all
pink Cadillac bleed like tuna: trusted

icons of supermarkets, suspended
in seas of air conditioning? Elvis

gently sings the victims in their long sleep,
his red hair as slick as publicity.

This week's poems celebrate the work of John Kinsella, who was born in Perth, Western Australia, in 1963, and mark the simultaneous publication of his *Poems 1980-1994* (Bloodaxe, £9.95) and his new volume, *The Hunt* (Bloodaxe, £7.95). This poem first appeared in *Full Fathom Five* (1993).

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Channel 5 chief attacks BBC's defensive culture

By Janine Gibson
Media Correspondent

THE chief executive of Channel 5, David Elstein, launched a blistering attack on the BBC last night – on the eve of recording a radio programme in which he will propose himself as its next director-general.

On delivering the Goldman Media Lecture, Mr Elstein described the BBC as “mesmerised by impossible and inappropriate ambitions” and “mired in its peculiar history and method of funding”.

He also proposed the abolition of the licence fee, calling instead for a subscription system which, he said, would “strengthen and further legitimise” the BBC.

But Mr Elstein will today record an edition of Radio 4's *The Candidate* in which he will be interviewed by Jonathan Dimbleby about how he would take on the job of director-general. The programme's aim is to set out a “manifesto” for a candidate for an influential position. The BBC has yet to confirm the transmission date for Mr Elstein's programme.

It is not known whether he will repeat on Radio 4 his comments from yesterday's lecture, which included noting that the BBC's News 24 rolling news service is “another nail in the coffin of the licence fee” and that the BBC gives the impression of being a “defensive monolith



David Elstein wants to end funding through licence fee

not an open public body”. He added that the BBC's notorious habit of relying on teams of management consultants must end. He said: “The BBC should give itself a year to dislodge every consultant and then learn to live without them.”

Mr Elstein is widely regarded by media figures and commentators as a favourite external candidate to take over Auntie's top job when the incumbent, John Birt, retires in 2000. His intellectual style – he is one of the youngest students ever to achieve a double first at Cambridge – and credible programming background have led to a perception that he was uncomfortable at the populist Channel 5.

Before joining Channel 5, where he has been chief executive for just over a year, he was the industry-acceptable face of

Sky as director of programmes at BSkyB. He previously had a high-profile television production career, notably at Thames Television.

The BBC governors are already gearing up for the task of appointing Mr Birt's replacement and are reported to be talking to headhunters, as well as lining up internal candidates.

Many of the BBC's senior management are approaching retirement, leaving the corporation in something of a succession crisis with the governors keen to ensure a formal hand-over plan is established swiftly.

Internal figures who might have been tipped for DG include chief executive, BBC production, Ron Neil, who will leave in November, and chief executive, BBC Broadcast, Will Wyatt, who is due to leave next year.

Among other prominent figures outside the BBC mooted for the post are chairman and chief executive of Pearson Television, Greg Dyke, and Channel 4 chief executive Michael Jackson, a former controller of both BBC 1 and BBC 2.

■ The future of television lies in long-dead game shows such as *Sale of the Century*, says ITV which has unveiled plans for its digital channel ITV2.

ITV2, which is planned to launch at the end of the year, will aim at a younger audience than the mainstream channel, with an emphasis on sport to attract young men.



An audience in Los Angeles at the world premiere of *Monsters in Grace*, a 3D digital opera by Robert Wilson and Philip Glass that is showing for the first time in Britain next week at the Barbican, in London. Photograph: Patricia Lanza

Elderly at risk, says task force

By Glenda Cooper
Social Affairs Correspondent

FEARS over care of the elderly means responsibility should be taken away from local authorities and he subject to national standards, according to a Government task force.

It is calling for changes to be brought in to stop “major anomalies” which are putting old people at risk.

The review of long-term care published yesterday by the Better Regulation Task Force says the system is “confusing” and consumers have little confidence in it.

The task force recommends that an independent inspectorate should be set up to enforce minimum standards of care in nursing and residential homes.

The chairman of the working group, Dr Chai Patel, said: “At the heart of all regulation has to be the need to provide protection for vulnerable people through guaranteed standards.”

The force wants the responsibilities to be taken out of the hands of local authorities where there could be conflict of interest when such authorities act as providers, purchasers and inspectors of care.

The Department of Health is expected to respond to the review by August.

Undertaker to be questioned on cremation of wrong body

DETECTIVES are to question an undertaker after it emerged today that the body of a 58-year-old woman was cremated by mistake, while the remains of a 97-year-old woman were buried in her place.

Police carried out an exhumation at the grave of Sheila Gent, 58, at a churchyard in Fulmodestone, Norfolk, yesterday. Checks by Home Office pathologists confirmed that the body in the grave was not that of Mrs Gent.

Detectives said the body in Mrs Gent's grave was almost certainly that of Edith Kemp, 97, and should have been cremated.

Detective Inspector Steve Fernandes said police would

now want to speak to undertaker David Turner, who arranged both funeral services in December 1996.

Both women, who lived in Thetford, died within days of each other and were laid out at Mr Turner's funeral parlour.

Police began inquiries earlier this year after a former member of staff at Mr Turner's funeral company alleged that there had been a mix-up.

She made the claim in court after being convicted of stealing from the company.

“We have been able to establish that the body buried at Fulmodestone is clearly not Mrs Gent,” said Det Insp Fernandes, who is based at Thetford.

“There is strong evidence to show that the body is that of Mrs Kemp. We will be continuing our inquiries and then we will consult the Crown Prosecution Service to see whether any criminal acts have been committed.”

Yesterday Mrs Gent's family solicitor, Ben Duress, said Mr Gent and his children were devastated by the news of the mistake. “The trauma suffered by the family can be well imagined,” he said.

He said it was now likely that the Gent family would launch legal action against Mr Turner.

Mr Turner was at a funeral yesterday and unavailable for comment.

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US warns of fresh arms race as India conducts two more nuclear tests

By Peter Popham
in New Delhi
and Andrew Marshall
in Washington

BRUSHING aside the world's denunciations of the three nuclear tests it carried out on Monday, India yesterday executed the "planned series" of tests now complete.

The US said the world could be on the brink of another arms race, triggered by India's tests, and slapped sanctions on New Delhi. "There will be a chain-reaction," the Defense Secretary, William Cohen, told a congressional committee. "There will be other countries that see this as an open invitation to try to acquire this technology."

Yesterday President Bill Clinton told a joint news conference with the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, that the tests could lead to "dangerous instability in the region". India should not conduct more tests and its neighbour, Pakistan, should remain calm, he said, calling the tests "deeply disappointing" and "a terrible mistake".

Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Gohar Ayub Khan, said the Indian leadership had "gone berserk". From China, which India has for the first time publicly identified as its main adversary in the region, there was only an inscrutable silence.

News of yesterday's tests, like Monday's, came out of a clear blue sky. As the first accounts of scenes in villages near the test site in Rajasthan's desert reached the newspapers - a violent shuddering of the earth, cracks appearing in walls of village huts, an outburst of spontaneous rejoicing - the world was stunned to learn India had done it again. The two new tests, according to a statement released by the government, took place at 12.21pm and were both low-yield devices. These, it was implied, would be the last tests. "The tests have been carried out to generate additional data for



Supporters of India's nuclear policy gathered yesterday outside the New Delhi residence of the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee. Photograph: Reuters

improved computer simulation of designs and for attaining the capability to carry out subcritical experiments, if considered necessary."

According to the government's domestic critics, the new tests were a particularly sinister development. "What they did today makes sense only if they move towards rapid deployment of nuclear weapons," said Pratul Bidwai, a security and nuclear-affairs analyst. "They've started two nuclear arms races, with Pakistan and with China. It's going to degrade security. It's a foolhardy and disastrous thing to do."

Mr Bidwai's interpretation

was bolstered by a statement by the headline Hindu nationalist Manohar Joshi, a senior minister who said on Tuesday that "Indian scientists will put a nuclear warhead on missiles as soon as the situation requires."

The diplomatic fall-out of India's initiative continued unabated. Japan, India's biggest aid donor, said \$30m (£19m) in grants would be cut. Just as Tokyo was announcing the measure, word of the two new tests came through. Later the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, said "Japan would now have to consider even tougher measures to penalise New Delhi."

After yesterday's tests Derek Fatchett, minister of state at the Foreign Office in London, summoned the Indian High Commissioner, PK Singh, to express shock and dismay. The further tests, he said, "were in flagrant disregard of the concerns already expressed by the international community and made matters yet worse."

In Potsdam, standing alongside his host, Chancellor Kohl, Mr Clinton said the tests were "unjustified and clearly created a dangerous new instability in the region. I've long supported deepening relations with India. This is a deep disappointment for me personally... We hope

the Indian government will soon realise that they can be a great nation in the 21st century without possessing nuclear weapons... It's a perfectly wonderful country and it is not necessary to manifest national greatness by doing this. It is a terrible mistake."

Reaction in Pakistan continued to verge on the hysterical. Ayub Khan said: "The Indian leadership seems to have gone berserk; they are acting in a totally unrestrained way."

But the Pakistani government gave no clear clues as to whether it would follow in India's footsteps or take Mr Clinton's advice and exercise

restraint. In India the outburst of jingoistic excitement that greeted the first tests began moderating into something more reflective.

Economic analysts, pointing out that American companies have plans to invest more than \$11bn in India, doubted that US business would sit idly by and allow such massive amounts to be jeopardised.

Optimists were quoted citing the case of human-rights abuses in China and America's readiness to turn a blind eye to them for the sake of commerce. Set against this was a study made by the Finance Ministry in 1995 which assessed that im-

position of sanctions after nuclear tests could set India's economy back five to 10 years.

What the second batch of tests made abundantly clear was that the Hindu nationalist BJP, which has advocated India's possessing nuclear weapons for the past 30 years, had struck a huge patriotic chord in the country at large, transcending party lines.

But the government's majority is minuscule; speculation mounted that they might seize this opportunity to go to the polls again in the next few months, while the chord continues to reverberate, in the hope of emerging with a healthy majority. The sanctions, imposed under a 1994 US non-proliferation law, will be painful but are unlikely to have a severe economic impact.

Analysts in Washington are concerned that other states - led by Pakistan - will follow India's example. It would be much more difficult to impose sanctions on Pakistan, as they would have a far more damaging impact on a country that is a long-time American ally in the region, and could have a destabilising effect on what is already an unstable country.

The US is also concerned that other states that are known to have pursued a nuclear capability, including Iran, Iraq and North Korea, will see the Indian step as a green light. "We have a real proliferation problem that's taking place globally. This is only going to contribute to that. It's going to cause other countries to find a rationale," Mr Cohen said. He said that about 25 countries now either have or are acquiring nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

Actress sues NY for \$20m

WHEN Annette Sorensen, a Danish actress, visited New York last May she left her two-year-old daughter, Liv, in a pushchair outside a Manhattan restaurant while she ate inside. Now, claiming emotional damage from what happened after diners called police, she is suing New York City \$20m (£12.5m). For three days mother and child were separated after the authorities put Liv in temporary foster care. Ms Sorensen's lawyer said Liv now suffers "emotional problems, a certain amount of fear of separation from her mother".

Town siege

A WEST African force is fighting a battle for the Sierra Leone town of Kallahun, the last major stronghold of the ousted junta. Scores of fighters have been killed in the battle for the eastern town near the border with Guinea. The West African force ejected the junta from Freetown in February and restored elected President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah in March.

Turks' fury

THOUSANDS of people in Turkey took to the streets to protest at the attack on a prominent defender of human rights. Akin Birdal, head of the independent Human Rights Association, was shot six times in the chest and leg Tuesday. His two assailants escaped. There are suspicions that the government was behind the attack.

No singing

IN A COMPROMISE aimed at pleasing women's groups and religious men, Israel's president decided no one would sing at his inauguration in parliament. A spokeswoman said the only solution was to call off the music. "No one will sing and everyone will be happy," she said.

CIA red-faced after 'greatest failure in decades'

By Andrew Marshall

INDIA'S ability to conduct nuclear tests without the knowledge of US intelligence agencies has triggered widespread criticism of the CIA and has been characterised as one of its worst failures for years. It will boost American opponents of arms control.

The world's largest, most extensively funded, most technologically advanced intelligence agency was apparently caught napping. When India detonated its nuclear tests on Monday, the Central Intelligence Agency and its associates should have known that some-

thing was up. Indeed, they should have known well in advance. Yet, according to reports yesterday, the agency was unaware. Reports yesterday said "clear-cut" evidence of test preparations was received at midnight on Sunday in Washington. But the analysts responsible were not on alert, as India had persuaded Washington that it was planning no tests. "The context of the intelligence community's error was complacency," according to an official quoted in the *Washington Post*. Even late the following day, officials still seemed uninformed.

Equally, India appears to

have timed the preparation for the tests to coincide with gaps in US satellite coverage, analysts said. "It is apparent the Indians went to some lengths to conceal their activities and intentions," said a CIA spokesman. None the less, "It must be seen as a failure, and a price must be paid," said Frank Chuloff, senior analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"There were indications from satellites of increasing activity, but they weren't looking at it," said Steven Young, of the British-American Security Information Council, a think tank. "When you're not looking, it's hard to see."

The CIA has announced that a team drawn from the intelligence community and headed by retired Vice Admiral David Jeremiah, a former vice-chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, will investigate how the US came to miss the tests, and report in 10 days. Congress is likely to hold its own hearings today.

The Republican head of the Senate committee that oversees the spy agency lambasted a "colossal failure of our intelligence gathering - possibly the greatest failure in more than a decade". Senator Richard Shelby said that the intelligence community was "caught completely off guard".

Newspaper editor feels the wrath of Mrs Arafat

By Robert Fisk
Middle East Correspondent

HELL bath no fury like Suha Arafat's scorned. Or so Abdulbaki Attwan found out when he wrote an editorial which criticised - ever so mildly - the wife of the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman. Her sin, according to Mr Attwan's article in the London-based Palestinian newspaper *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, had been to send medicine to Iraq with her name plastered all over the boxes; why, he asked his readers, could the medical supplies not have been sent by "the Palestinian people"?

Anywhere else, the remarks might have been of small mo-

ment. Indeed, Mr Attwan had already written a leader in his paper - printed on an inside page - praising the Palestinian gift of medicines. Mr Attwan wishes to say nothing about the subsequent dispute, but another member of his staff is less reticent. "We were in our editorial meeting, waiting for a picture to use on our front page of the medicines being put aboard a flight to Baghdad," he says. "We were very proud that our besieged Palestinian people would want to show their sympathy in this way for the poor Iraqis."

Then the photograph arrived which showed the medicine boxes, all of which had Suha Arafat's name printed on

the side in large letters - "larger than the boxes themselves!" as another member of staff put it. Mr Attwan was so outraged that he immediately wrote a second editorial for the front page of the paper, condemning the "hypocrisy" of using the name of Yasser Arafat's wife when the Palestinian people were themselves the donors.

Within hours of the paper's appearance, Suha Arafat was on the phone. "She was screaming at Abdulbaki, asking him why he had criticised her and telling him she had sent the medicines in the name of the Palestinian people," the *Al-Quds al-Arabi* staff member says. "She claimed she had put her name on the boxes of medicines for Iraq to 'protect the Palestinian people' - because Abu Amar [Arafat] and his colleagues were frightened that [Israeli prime minister] Netanyahu would be angry if he saw the medicines came from all Palestinians."

The Saudi-owned newspaper *Al-Hayat* defended Mrs Arafat, who later gave an indignant interview to the magazine *Al-Majalla* - also Saudi-owned - saying she would repeat her medical shipments to Iraq. "She

said that those who didn't like it could drink sea water," Mr Attwan's colleague explained.

When Mr Arafat arrived for last week's doomed "peace" talks in London, the judders Mr Attwan tried to make amends by visiting the PLO chairman at Claridges. He got short shrift. "Arafat saw him after a delay but was very cold," the editor's colleague says. "Clearly, he had not been forgiven."

All of which proves that a Palestinian editor's duty is not a happy one. Two days ago, this salient fact was demonstrated yet again. After criticising the Jordanian government, Mr Attwan received a letter from the Ministry of Information in Amman, telling him that his paper was permanently banned in the Hashemite Kingdom.

Al-Quds al-Arabi was hitherto regarded as something of a mouthpiece for the PLO. So what happened? Where is its money coming from to fund the paper and its nine staff? The editor laughs bitterly. "You may well ask," Mr Attwan says. "Now we are not getting on with our landlord in London. And yesterday, the bailiffs came to call on us..."

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Suharto flies back to streets of rage

By Richard Lloyd Parry
in Jakarta

IN SOME of the worst mob violence ever seen in Jakarta, 10 people were killed and shops, homes and cars were burned, hours after Indonesia's opposition leaders called on the armed forces to join them in deposing President Suharto.

Eyewitnesses said that nine ethnic Chinese were burned to death after gangs of youths attacked their homes, shouting "Let's kill the Chinese" and "Let's wipe out the Chinese". At least one other person was killed and more than 25 were injured as police and soldiers fired live rounds and plastic bullets in intermittent attempts to control the mob in the streets around Trisakti University.

It was the second day of violence in the Indonesian capital. On Tuesday police shot dead six students from the Trisakti campus. But what began as an act of remembrance for the dead students then degenerated into a frightening outburst of racist resentment directed against Indonesia's wealthy Chinese minority.

Two of the students were buried yesterday after an electrifying campus rally attended by the country's most influential and respected opposition leaders, including Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of Indonesia's founding president, and Ali Sadikin, a retired marine general and former mayor of Jakarta. All of them denounced the killings of the students, called for the continuation of peaceful demonstrations and urged the armed forces to act against Suharto in order to further political reform.

"We make our appeal to the senior commanders of the Indonesian armed forces," said Amio Rals, the American-educated political scientist who leads the 28 million strong Muslim organisation, Muhammadiyah. "They have two options. Either protect the in-

terests of one man and his family - or protect the entire nation. Muslims call on you to overthrow the power of exploitation."

All day the students continued their speeches within the university campus. But it was in the streets surrounding the campus that the most amazing scenes occurred as thousands of young men, mostly working class Jakartans, embarked on a five-hour rampage which police made only desultory attempts to contain.

The demonstrators began by pulling down trees and fences

to create barricades near the university, then set fire to a lorry which burned under a fly-over, sending up billows of black smoke and effectively closing off one of the main approaches to the centre of Jakarta. Then they moved towards the hotel and shopping centre owned by members of President Suharto's family. It was at this point that riot police formed a line across a bridge over a canal.

"Fuck Suharto! Kill the President!" the crowd screamed, as the police were driven back under a barrage of hurled rocks.

One man demolished a set of traffic lights by striking it repeatedly with a No Parking sign ripped from a nearby pavement. Without any regard for their own safety, schoolboys carrying satchels ran within a few yards of the armed police. At first the police did no more than throw the stones back, but eventually they started firing, apparently with blank or plastic-coated rounds.

The mob then marched down Kyai Tapa street, tearing up street signs and ornamental lamp posts in full view of several

hundred riot police and marines, who made little effort to intervene even when they came under fusillades of stones and petrol bombs.

The crowd then set a petrol station on fire. The mirrored glass windows of a branch of Bank Bali were smashed with stones; computer terminals ripped from inside were placed in a pile in the middle of the road and burned. By mid-afternoon, black clouds of smoke rose from at least five separate fires, all burning within a two mile radius.

At about 3 o'clock, a stolen Mitsubishi truck with smashed windows was driven towards a line of police. Shots rang out and the crowd scattered. A few minutes later, *The Independent* was shown the mutilated body of a man whose skull had been cracked open, apparently in a collision with the truck.

It was in the Cengkareng and Jelambar areas, north-west of the university, that gangs of looters set fire to Chinese shops and houses, killing nine people in the blazes. Less than 5 per cent of Indonesia's population is of

Chinese extraction, but they control some 70 per cent of the country's wealth and have been increasingly targeted as scapegoats for the country's economic crisis.

There were intermittent volleys of shots all afternoon. Twenty-five people were treated at the university clinic, eight of them for wounds from plastic bullets. But one man was being operated on after being shot with a live round which entered the front of his shoulder and passed through out of his back, leaving a long, open exit wound.

Special intervention forces prepare to fire at students demonstrating against President Suharto in the university city of Yogyakarta yesterday

Photograph: Maya Vidoni/APF



The police and army appear to have learned one lesson from events on Tuesday - that casualties, especially those among students, only inflame an already explosive political situation. There were similar, although less destructive demonstrations at universities in the cities of Surabaya and Yogyakarta, both of them, like Jakarta, on the island of Java.

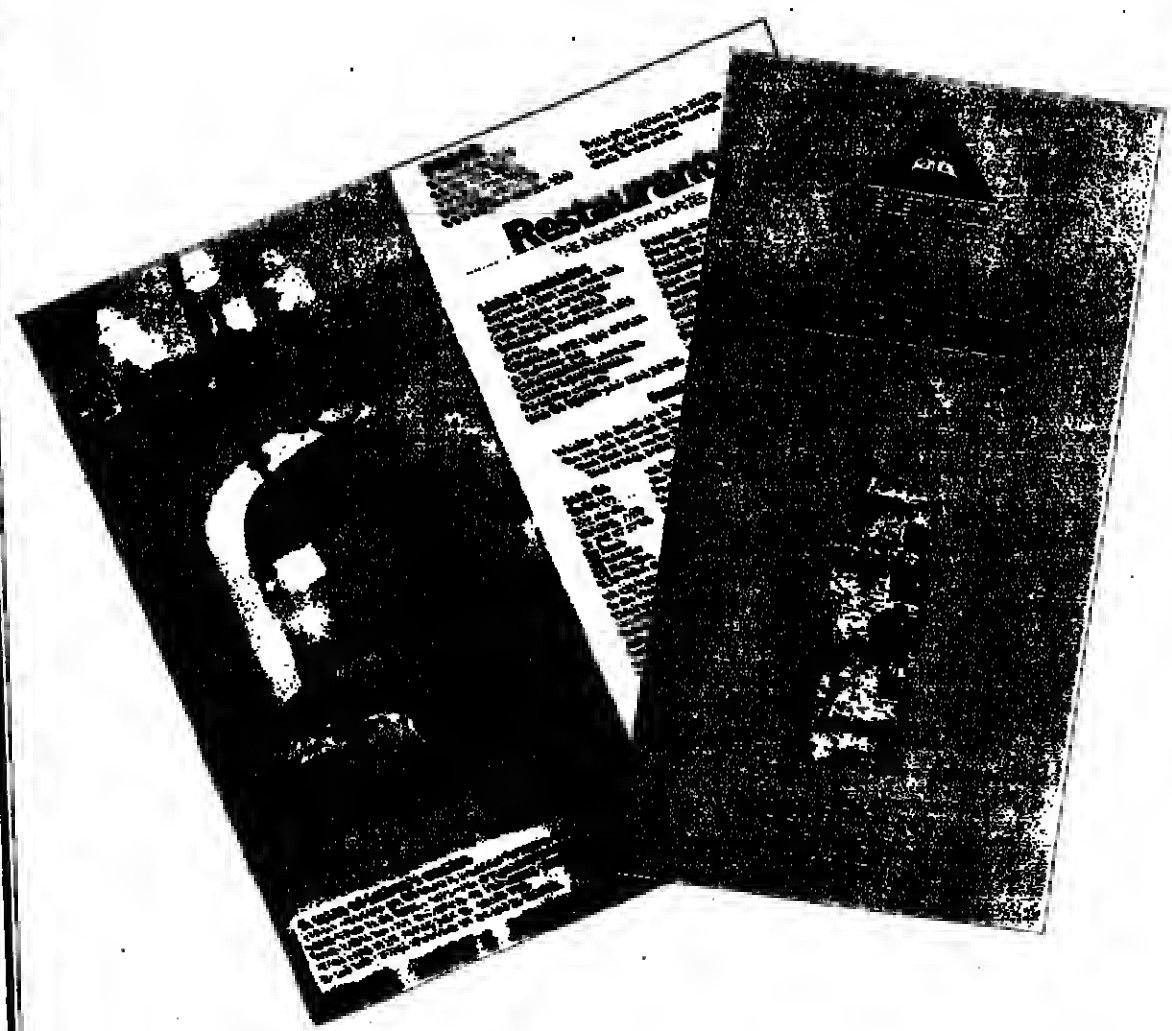
The crisis in Indonesia remains fluid, as President Suharto is still absent from the country. Yesterday he announced he will curtail his state visit to Egypt. "He has changed his plans and he is leaving tomorrow after meeting [Egyptian President Hosni] Mubarak," one Indonesian official said.

President Suharto arrived in Cairo on Saturday to attend a summit meeting of developing countries and pay an official visit to Egypt, leaving behind his country reeling from riots and its worst economic crisis in decades. The president has made no public comment on the rioting in Indonesia during his stay in Cairo.

The European Union yesterday called on Indonesia to investigate the deaths in recent disturbances and refrain from lethal force. "The loss of life in Indonesia is disturbing," said a statement released by the Foreign Office in Britain, current president of the EU.

The violence and boldness of this week's demonstrations show a remarkable change of mood in a people who have passively tolerated the rule of one man for 32 years. It is hard to believe that such change can now be arrested, let alone reversed.

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INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

Beauty business with an ugly side

By Phil Davison
in Bogota

ALONG with their coffee and their football, Colombians love nothing better than a beauty pageant. They were glued to their sets early yesterday to watch Miss Colombia take on 80 other girls for the Miss Universe title in Hawaii.

Their first hope? That their girl, Silvia Fernanda Ortiz, came home with the crown. As it turned out, she dropped out in the last five. Their second? That Miss Ortiz can stay out of the clutches of the drug lords, who are known for buying young beauty queens - often from poor families - with lavish gifts, jewellery, cash and cocaine.

Colombians were reminded of the problem last week when Luis Murcia Sierra, better known by his nickname Martelo, was detained in the capital



The new Miss Universe - from Trinidad and Tobago

on suspicion of heading the notorious Bogota cocaine cartel. With him when arrested was Paula Andrea Salazar, a teenage beauty queen running for the provincial title of Miss Cartagena.

When the anti-drug squad found Martelo's personal photo album, it was full of sexy pictures of other beauty queens,

including a former Miss Brazil - Leila Christine Schuster.

"I like beauty queens. I used to change them every week but the Brazilian was the best of my life," the suspected drug lord told police. Another picture was of Alexandra Serrano, a beautiful teenage television presenter, who later admitted to Colombian reporters that she had met Martelo when she was 14 and that he had been "a divine boyfriend" until last year.

Since his detention, Martelo has been visited by a succession of beauty queens, models and young female television or film stars, police said. That reminded people of a former runner-up for Miss Colombia who, two weeks after the pageant, was found to have made an overnight conjugal visit to a jailed drug lord. She was stripped of her title.

Another former Miss Colombia runner-up, Claudia

Milena Garcia, admitted this week that she had had an affair with Luis Carlos Aguilar, a "lieutenant" of former Medellin cartel chief Pablo Escobar.

Escobar, killed by Colombian troops five years ago, was renowned for buying beautiful women and taking them to his various ranches for weekend parties. His favourite game was watching them slide naked down the banisters of his staircase.

Although Martelo had many properties, police found his key possessions in three suitcases - one full of emeralds and diamonds, one packed with cellular telephones and a pistol, and the third listing his bank accounts and payments to contacts.

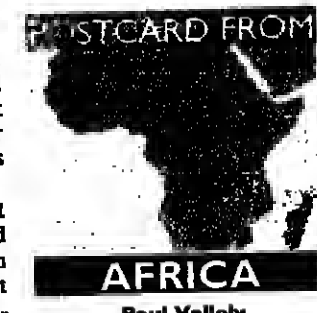
Martelo's father, Lucho Murcia, is one of Colombia's top emerald dealers - a business rife with violence and often used as a money laundering outlet for the cocaine cartels.

Zambians struggle for dignity under the burden of debt

I AM the only person in the breakfast room at Kapinanga House when the middle-aged priest in clerical black enters. It is only after we have talked for some time that I discover he is the Archbishop of Lusaka.

He fulminates on the subject of Zambia's foreign debt and how the original sum has been repaid many times over and yet - thanks to the dubious miracle of compound interest - the country owes more now than ever before. Every child born here emerges into the world with a debt of \$950 (£590) around his or her neck - the highest per capita debt anywhere in the world. More than that, he says, the Western nations, which take \$3 in debt repayments for every \$1 they give in aid, are the same countries who have taken Zambia's copper for years at unfair prices. Yet when I ask if I may get my notebook and interview him, the Catholic prelate comes over all discreet.

Church leaders in Zambia have a delicate line to tread. Their commentaries on the



AFRICA
Paul Vallely

economic and political life of the nation - and their impact on the most vulnerable citizens - are not universally appreciated.

"Stop hiding behind God!" roared the Zambian Finance Minister recently, demanding that the Church should declare itself as a political party and stand for election against the government. It was a measure of how - in a country where the political opposition is largely ineffective - it is the Church which is the most powerful advocate for the vulnerable.

Five years ago it published a prophetic document *Hear the Cry of the Poor* which insisted

economic policies must be judged against basic questions about human dignity. It set up a project, funded from Britain by the Catholic aid agency Cafod, to monitor the impact on the very poor of the economic reforms - with their cuts in food, health and education budgets - put in place to enable Zambia to pay the interests on its debt.

Its strength lies in the fact that its Justice and Peace secretariat is rooted in a network of information-gathering activists drawn from ordinary church members throughout the vast areas covered by its nine dioceses. They tour the villages collecting data on how much each family has eaten and spent - and on what - each month.

Added to that are the economic skills of a team led by an American Jesuit, Fr Peter Heuvel, which has produced an appraisal which does not deny that reform is necessary, but insists the cost should not be borne disproportionately by the poor.

"The Church has played an absolutely crucial role in keeping the government on its toes,"

one senior civil servant in the Finance Ministry told me privately. It has also provided the economic data which has allowed Henry Northover, Cafod's policy analyst, to come up with a formula - now gaining support from other aid agencies - for economic reform which requires that a certain amount be spent on health and education before calculations are made on what level of debt repayments the country can afford.

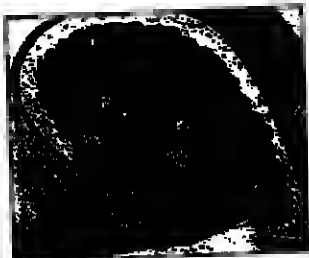
What is being built by the Church and other non-governmental organisations and an untired free press is the beginnings of that civil society which is vital to underpin true democracy.

Life and death decisions on debt should not be left solely in the hands of Western financiers and African élites. Mechanisms are being created by which policy can be influenced by the people whose lives and deaths are at stake. Western politicians should back the process.

Tomorrow: Meeting the money men

مكتبة من الأناضول

Child B: the truth about her last days



Everybody had an opinion about how to treat Jaymee Bowen as she battled against leukaemia. But as a new study reveals, nobody could agree. Jeremy Laurance reports

THE story of Jaymee Bowen, better known as Child B, is one of the most harrowing in the recent history of the NHS. When she came to public notice in early 1995, aged 10, she had spent half her life battling cancer. The disease had returned (as acute myeloid leukaemia) and her family and doctors faced an agonising choice: whether to keep her comfortable until she died or whether to persist with more aggressive treatment in the hope of a cure.

It is a question that sooner or later every cancer victim faces. In Jaymee's case, everyone had an opinion, but there were no clear answers, as the first detailed study of her tragic case, published today by the King's Fund, makes clear.

It is a story of a father driven by despair over his dying child, a health authority cleaving to its public responsibility, and eminent consultants at loggerheads over the best way forward. Above all it demonstrates that what was presented at the time as a row about NHS rationing was, in truth, nothing of the sort. It was about what sort of treatment was appropriate for a child staring death in the face. As Professor Albert Weale of Essex University says in the foreword: "If tragedy is the clash of right against right, here, quite simply, was a tragedy."

It was when Cambridge Health Authority, responsible for Jaymee's care, refused to pay for a second bone marrow transplant that her story made the headlines in March 1995. Her father, David Bowen, a volatile and determined man,

had decided she should be given the chance of life, however slim and whatever the human and financial cost. He committed himself to obtaining the treatment she needed, working night and day in libraries, telephoning experts around the world, cajoling and lying his way into their consulting rooms.

The result was that Jaymee's case became a cause célèbre, portrayed as an example of NHS rationing at its worst in which callous bureaucrats were denying a young girl a chance of life. David Bowen went to court to compel the health authority to pay for further treatment. He lost, but the publicity generated by the case achieved the end he wanted. An anonymous donor agreed to pay the £75,000 cost of further treatment, which began in March 1995 in a private London clinic.

Jaymee lived for a further year, longer than most consultants had given her. During that year she had further chemotherapy and an experimental treatment known as donor lymphocyte infusion. Her indomitable spirit carried her through and she appeared to think the pain and discomfort was worth it.

A Panorama programme shown in October 1996 made her an instant celebrity. Asked for her advice to other children in her position, she replied: "Never give up. Never give up until you are the last little drop of life."

By March of the following year, however, she had apparently had enough. The reaction known as graft-versus-host disease that the paediatric oncologists had feared and which had until then been held in check settled in her lungs. She had difficulty breathing, it became painful to swallow and sometimes she was so short of breath she could hardly climb the stairs. Two months later, she died a harrowing death.

In this unique and sensitive study, the authors, Professor Chris Ham and Susan Pickard of the Health Services Management Centre at the University of Birmingham, were granted interviews by all the protagonists in the case, most importantly with the senior consultants, who have never spoken about it before. The most surprising aspect of the report is the profound disagreement among them and the hostility which they felt towards each other.

The paediatric cancer specialists who cared for Jaymee most of her life at Addenbrooke's and who were consulted for a second opinion at the Royal Marsden in London believed palliative care was the only option. It would allow her to enjoy what remained of her life, avoiding further suffering – and there was no guarantee, anyway, that more aggressive treatment would gain her extra time. Dr Valerie Broadbent of Addenbrooke's said that all her clinical experience confirmed that further intensive treatment in Jaymee's case would not be in the patient's best interests. She was concerned with what she called "good death and bad death." Dr Simoo Meller of the Royal Marsden was unequivocal. "I won't go on doing treatments

that I think are wrong for children or unkind to children."

The adult leukaemia specialists whom David Bowen consulted at Hammersmith Hospital and the private Portland Clinic took the view that extending Jaymee's life was worthwhile even if she could not be cured. They cited Mr Bowe's strong wish to do everything possible and Jaymee's courageous attitude to her illness. Professor John Goldman of the Hammersmith said: "If you say that just prolonging people's lives for six months is futile, then for practical purposes I'm out of business. We don't cure that many people with proper cancer. We do prolong their life."

Dr Peter Gravett, the consultant haematologist who treated Jaymee privately, said: "Paediatricians feel that if there is no protocol then there should be no treatment."

This clash of philosophy generated fierce animosity. The paediatricians accused the adult specialists of "clinical arrogance" and the adult specialists responded with charges of "empire building" by the paediatricians.

It was also a clash between state and private medicine. As one paediatrician put it: "Some specialists would feel that somebody is trying to tell them how they should or shouldn't practise medicine. It's very classical behaviour of famous specialists. They usually have a very

large private practice and whatever rules we decide are appropriate in the NHS, they won't apply to private practice."

Each side clung to its own view and its right to disagree. As the report says, it reflects the individualistic values to which medicine has always subscribed. The report recommends that a limit be placed on the number of opinions that patients and health authorities are allowed to seek (the Patients Charter currently permits two) and that children should be given a greater say in how decisions are made.

Was it all worth it for Jaymee? The central issue in the case was the ancient medical conundrum of how to ensure that more good is done

than harm. Even now, after her death, the specialists disagree no the benefits of her treatment. Professor Goldman said it had achieved its object of buying more time. Dr Broadbent maintained that she would almost certainly have enjoyed as much good quality life with palliative care, even though she might have died sooner.

Near the end, Jaymee was asked if she was prepared for death. To her reply she expressed her longing to be free of the body to which she had been shackled. "There is nothing to be scared of and hopefully it won't be painful. I don't want to die, but if I do and there is an afterlife I want to come back as a butterfly."

'Every single day you buy is priceless'

TWO years after Jaymee's death, her father David remains convinced he did the right thing for his daughter. He won her an extra year of life when she was, in his words, facing "imminent extinction."

"Every single day you buy in that situation is priceless. There is no other word for it," he said yesterday.

The extra year brought much happiness and the human cost, in terms of her own suffering, was not excessive, he says. "I have got a photo album full of happy memories. She thoroughly enjoyed every minute she had. She went to Disneyland and to Harrods and did all sorts of things she would never have done. Even when she was in hospital the chemotherapy didn't affect her that much. She was just that kind of person."

His chief complaint about the NHS is that because she was a child, the right to decide her own fate was removed from her and given to the paediatricians. When, by his own efforts, he established that there were other options – held out by the adult leukaemia specialists he consulted – there was no system for considering them. He wanted to get all the doctors and the health authority to sit down and thrash out the differences between them. Instead, all communications between him and the NHS managers, who were denying his daughter treatment were by fax and phone, a point criticised in the King's Fund report.

"If they were going to rob her of the possibility of life they should at least have explained why," he said.

The end of his battle to save her has left him feeling empty, he says. "For such a long period my entire life was consumed with it 24 hours a day. Now I get up in the morning and feel I am not much use anymore."

Jeremy Laurance



Jaymee Bowen with her father, David. His tenacity turned her story into front-page news. Photograph: Kevin Larnaque

The Re



Sir John

My part-time husband is wreaking havoc at home

DILEMMAS



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

Diane's husband works abroad four weeks in six. On his return, he struts around like the man of the house, ticking off the kids. He only wants to be with Diane, so she can't maintain a social life. She loves her husband, but how can she cope?

WHEN cats return home after a spell away they go round the house wiggling their tails and spraying in every corner. They want to re-establish their territory. It sounds as though Diane's husband, after his absence, is indulging in similar kind of feline behaviour, making his mark on the children, by disciplining them over little matters. He has to make his presence felt.

Lots of part-time partners do the same. Some come home and make it party time. "They're back, relax everyone!" which can be equally irritating to the partner left at home if she

has spent weeks trying to cobble together a status quo.

It sounds as though Diane's husband is terrified of not being needed after his long time away, too, so he creates things to do, whether they're appropriate or not. He wants Diane to himself for similar motives – he wants to surround her with his presence like a fog, and not risk meeting anyone else who might entertain her or leave their mark on her.

On the other hand, Diane probably feels, at some level, extremely angry at being abandoned for a month at a time. Plus, it's been a struggle for her

to keep going alone, and every time her husband comes home he appears to delight in mucking up her carefully constructed routine.

How can they improve matters? It sounds as though they don't communicate a lot when he's away. Maybe they feel the time-difference is too hard to maintain proper contact, or it's too expensive to make endless long-distance calls several times a day. But it's worth it.

That way Diane's husband can do a bit of his spraying over the phone. Diane should ask him if he'd like to be consulted on domestic matters and my guess

is that he would. He'd like to be rung for his advice when the fridge starts to leak; he'd like to be told what homework had to be done when the kids came back from school; he'd like to be asked whether he thinks lime green is the right colour for the kitchen; he'd even like to be asked if he thinks she should cut the grass.

Of course, maybe he would not like to be consulted. Maybe his life is one long round of meetings (What does go on in meetings by the way? I've never been to one. I imagine they're a lot of waffle going in a boardroom with clipboards and glasses of water and new pencils). Maybe he is so pre-occupied with writing minutes (another baffling area) that he has no time to discuss household matters. If so, Diane's perfectly justified in getting furious when he comes home and starts moving the furniture around.

Whatever they do, they should do something out about the children, who will otherwise get extremely baffled by the double standards imposed in their home and, worse, dread their father's return as he struts about like a petty Hitler. And why Diane can't maintain a social life during her husband's absences is beyond me. Maybe she'll worry about being called

a fair-weather friend if she cuts off every so often for a fortnight, but most friends can hang on that long.

At the moment this marriage is not a happy one. Ultimately, it might be worth considering her husband getting a job nearer home even if it means a cut in pay. It all depends whether both Diane and he consider the maintenance of their marriage as a real priority in their lives.

READERS' REPLIES

I work away from home a lot of the time, but my partner keeps in touch all the time. We ring each other sometimes three times a day, send e-mails and faxes and write letters. She has a full social life and I trust her completely, and it's always wonderful to be back at home – like a honeymoon every time. Diane's husband sounds like a control freak. Even if he were at home all the time I think she'd find things difficult. She says she loves him, but does he love her? They need to sort things out – quickly.

Alan, Richmond

I'd have a rip-roaring row with him for being so unappreciative of my efforts to manage family affairs in his absence.

But a more subtle approach is necessary. Perhaps he is trying to re-establish his identity and impose his own personality on the family each time he comes home, and in doing so wreaks havoc. Like a child he needs reassurance that he is needed and loved. Diane should stress how much they miss him and need him. If this doesn't improve things she might show him a list of the points in her letter. He may not realise how much trouble he is causing. Then, he probably does, in which case straight talking may help him grow up.

Yvonne

My husband is quite different to Diane's. He comes home at weekends and expects everything to be done for him. He lives in a hotel during the week and sometimes I think he sees his home as just another hotel. He indulges the children and refuses to discipline them, so I feel I am the monster of the family. He also expects me to get them out of the way when he wants a rest. Also, he's very social and often he's down at the pub with old friends. If I were Diane I wouldn't worry. She's lucky to have a husband who seems to want to contribute to family life, even if it is rather over the top.

Anon

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NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

We have taken a house in the country for a month during the summer. The problem is our cat, who is very dependent on us. Should we put him in a cattery for a month? Or should we leave him at home with someone popping in to feed him? Or should we take him with us? I am terrified he might get lost if we do. Yours, Mandy

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora. Send comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside at the Features Department, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182). By Tuesday morning. If you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.

كلنا من الامل

The Rev Philip Caraman

JUST a few months before he died Philip Caraman sent to a fellow Jesuit three photographs, suggesting that they might be useful in some eventual obituary. Caraman was not one to act without purpose and so it can be no accident that the photographs show him at widely different moments of his varied and significant ministry.

In one he is blessing a newly built ship in Norway; in another he is smilingly presenting a cage of white doves to Pope Paul VI at the canonisation of the 40 martyrs of England and Wales; in the third he stands under a broad-brimmed hat on a mountain top in South America, for all the world like Keats's Cortez upon his peak in Darien. Much lay before and after those moments.

Philip Caraman was born in Golders Green, north London, in 1911, his family's roots being in what he would surely have called the Levant rather than the more pedestrian Middle East. There were seven girls in the family and two boys. After his schooling at Stonyhurst he joined the Society of Jesus at Roehampton in 1930. His brother John had preceded him there six years before. John was to be a missionary in Rhodesia and Zimbabwe, where with charming eccentricity he wore a solar topee to the last. Philip

one feels, might well have done the same.

His Jesuit formation included reading History at Campion Hall, where Father Martin D'Arcy, an ever-formative influence, was Master. Caraman was ordained priest in 1945 at Farm Street and that was to be his home for the next 16 years or so.

At the time a "House of Writers" was part of the Jesuit apostolate at Farm Street, with its own quarters in the house immediately adjoining the church. Caraman became one of those "writers" and so he remained. In 1948 he was appointed editor of the *Month*, giving it a new format and a new style calculated to appeal to the Catholic readership of post-war Britain. Friends of the stature of Evelyn Waugh and Graham Greene were happy to be associated with his new venture, and theirs was a relationship of mutual support. Caraman greatly assisted Waugh with the historical background to his 1950 novel *Helena*, and that assistance was always gratefully acknowledged.

Like D'Arcy, Caraman was in no awe of the great and the good and the famous and he was no stranger to what he is unlikely to have called networking. His contacts were many, varied and fruitful, his offices were

husy. That they should have been termed by some the "caramansera" was perhaps inevitable. These were the years of his biographies of the early British Jesuits like William Weston and Henry Morse and of his tributes to later men like Fr Francis Devas and Fr Joseph Keating. In 1956 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

In 1959 he was appointed vice-postulator of the cause for canonisation of the 40 martyrs of England and Wales, a responsibility which appealed to his religious and historical sensibilities and which he promoted with enthusiastic devotion and an elegant pen. He was in St Peter's when the canonisation was proclaimed by Paul VI in 1970—along with the doves and the photographer.

His great friend Alec Guinness recalls another occasion when they had come into St Peter's wrapped British-style against wind and weather only to be flunked forward into totally unsuitable prominence, Caraman looking "rather like some crumpled curate from an impoverished English vicarage". It was otherwise when he received into the Catholic Church such famous figures as Edith Sitwell.

For all his charm and courtesy Philip Caraman was not a

man to be crossed or opposed and there were those who found him intransigent and unyielding. The mischievous twinkle in his eye could harden in no uncertain fashion. He left Farm Street in 1963 and in 1965 the work on the martyrs was put into other hands.

Caraman then made his first stay in Norway, working as a missionary in a foreign land whose language he had to learn, and in a none too receptive climate. It gave him, he said, ample time for writing and so he completed his biography of Fr C.C. Martindale.

Towards the end of 1968 he was asked to lecture in church history in the Westminster diocesan seminary, then still in Hertfordshire, an appointment he enjoyed and which allowed him to conduct researches into the Jesuit reduction in Paraguay. That also took him to Rome and to South America, even to the mountain peaks, and *The Lost Paradise* was duly published in 1975.

That done, Caraman returned to Norway, working first in Trondheim and then in Tønsberg, where the cameras captured him blessing a new ship in the yards. After three years he returned to England and was soon at work on a history of the Gregorian University. Research into the history of the Jesuits in Australia took him there in

1980 and then, between 1981 and 1986, he split his time between London and Rome each year, working on contributions to an encyclopaedia of Jesuit history.

At the age when bishops and parish priests are required to offer their resignation Caraman took charge of the rural parish of Dulverton in Somerset—a mischievous twinkle at that point surely?—again caring for a diversified flock and finding time for writing and research. Just before going to Dulverton he had completed a book on the exploits of the Jesuit missionaries in Ethiopia in the late 16th century and he was soon at work on the biography of St Ignatius Loyola which came out in 1990. His book on the journeying of 17th-century Jesuits into Tibet (*Tibet: the Jesuit century*) was published only last month and at Caraman's own request was toasted by his brethren at Farm Street in traditional style.

He had been a Jesuit priest and a Jesuit writer 53 years. To Philip Caraman that was a double vocation which he embraced fully and fruitfully.

Michael O'Halloran SJ

Philip George Caraman, priest and writer: born London 11 August 1911; ordained priest 1945; Editor, the *Month* 1948-64; FRS, 1956; died Tønsberg, Norway 6 May 1998.



Double vocation: Caraman blessing a ship in Tønsberg, Norway, in 1978



Duma, left, aged 12, with his brother Mehmet in Albania, 1920. He came to England in the 1930s and stayed, a wartime minder to King Zog and post-war expatriate leader

Dervish Duma

DERVISH DUMA was one of the last survivors from the world of pre-war diplomacy and for 60 years a pre-eminent servant of the Albanian people, as diplomatic representative, wartime broadcaster and unofficial leader of the expatriate Albanian community in Britain.

He was born into a land-owning family in the southern coastal village of Borsh in 1908. On 28 November 1912 Albania, the last remaining province of the crumbling Ottoman Empire, declared independence from Turkish rule. Her Balkan neighbours, however, had other plans for the territory and in 1913 Borsh was attacked and razed by Greek troops.

The family moved to the port of Vlore, where Dervish was enrolled in an Italian school. In 1920 he was transferred as one

of the first year's intake to the new American Technical College in Tirana. English-speaking liberally educated Albanians were in short supply, and at the age of 20 he was appointed General Secretary of the Royal Albanian Gendarmerie, then under British command. The CO, Major-General Sir Jocelyn Percy, recognised Duma's potential and arranged for him to go to England to study public administration at the LSE from 1933 to 1935.

On his return to Albania, Duma entered the diplomatic service and was given the dual appointment of First Secretary to the Albanian Delegation to the League of Nations in Geneva and Second Secretary to the Albanian Legation in London. Given that of his two col-

leagues in London the minister, Lee Kurti, was blind and did not speak English and the First Secretary was the notorious playboy Chatin Saraci, Duma's presence there was valued. Early in 1939 he was made chargé d'affaires. However, on Good Friday of that year Mussolini invaded Albania, declaring it Italy's Second Overseas Province (the first being Ethiopia). The military logistics of this operation were considerably facilitated by the fact that the Albanian army was being run by Italian advisers.

Duma was recalled to Tirana but elected to stay in Britain, where Sir Eric Bowater offered him a job with the paper corporation. He had a long and successful career with Bowaters where his charm, diplomacy and affability were put to good

use, particular in developing relationships with American publishers.

In 1940 he inaugurated the BBC's Albanian service. Through his nightly broadcasts he became the voice of hope and freedom for his oppressed countrymen. During the Second World War he also acted as minder to the deposed Albanian ruler, King Zog, who had arrived in London via Greece and Egypt in 1941 and taken up residence in the Ritz Hotel with his wife and entourage of five unmarried sisters. Zog spoke no English and was unaccustomed to Western ways. Duma once rescued him trying to buy a packet of cigarettes in Bond Street with a £50 note—over £1,000 in today's money.

After the war Duma became a leader of the Albanian

community in Britain, and through annual visits maintained contact with the sizeable groups that had emigrated to America in the 1920s. At his death he was Chairman of the Anglo-Albanian Association; he had served on its committee for 62 years.

The misery wrought upon Albania under the dictatorship of Enver Hoxha brought Duma much anguish, and he enjoyed a few years of life after the fall of the Communist regime in 1991. He was visited in Surrey by Pjeter Arbnori, Speaker of the Albanian parliament, and the moderate Kosovar leader Ibrahim Rugova; he saw his son, Alexander, installed as Honorary Consul in 1992, and was invited to inaugurate the BBC's Albanian service—it had been closed down under Harold

Wilson's government for a paltry yearly saving of £12,000.

Urbane, dapper and immensely charming, Dervish Duma was a witty conversationalist and an accomplished raconteur. His Italian, though little used since 1920, remained perfectly pronounced though of limited vocabulary. He was flattered to be taken for a native speaker of the language on a recent visit to Rome. He was a stickler for correct usage in English and Albanian and leaves a body of poetry in both languages.

Andrew van der Beek

Dervish Duma, diplomat, broadcaster, businessman and community leader: born Borsh, Albania 4 July 1908; married 1936 Najfati Andoni (died 1966; one son); died West Horsley, Surrey 6 May 1998.

Sir John Nabarro

IT WAS John Nabarro's broad concern for "the whole patient" in his or her family and social setting that drew him into diabetes, and through the British Diabetic Association made him such a tireless champion for the diabetes cause.

He led the clinicians and scientists as Chairman of the Medical and Scientific Section of the association, indeed was one of its founder members; later, as Chairman of the association's Executive Committee, he argued and won the patients' case for NHS provision of blood glucose strips and modern syringes and insulin. He fostered the evolution of Diabetes Centres which have so greatly raised the quality of diabetes care in Britain and he promol-

ed the recognition of diabetes as a major national public health problem as well as a personal medical predicament.

Diabetes with its complications of blindness, amputations, kidney failure and heart attacks consumes about 10 per cent of the NHS budget. Nabarro contributed powerfully to the ongoing case that, with modern knowledge, much of the misery of diabetes can be prevented and its long-term costs greatly reduced, given the will and some shorter-term wherewithal to tackle it.

Nabarro was a perfectionist in all he did, making great demands upon himself and expecting a like performance from those working with him. His credentials were excellent and his

purposes uncompromising—to do the best for the patients and the issues for which he had responsibility.

In today's jargon, he gave everything he did his "best shot". In the line of duty, he was no easy colleague. The words were few, but the flesh sizzled. To his patients he was a model physician, one who listened, supported and sympathised, encouraged and exhorted, inspired confidence, affection and sometimes awe.

His intelligence, integrity and immense capacity for hard and sometimes defiant work were recognised by his colleagues in many ways. As a leading clinical endocrinologist, he attracted referrals of difficult and unusual problems from

all over the country. His personal knowledge and experience were wide and unusually well-organised, his coverage of the medical literature quite prodigious.

As a teacher, a role he relished, he was meticulous and accurate with an impish humour and apposite anecdote that made his lessons memorable. The Royal College of Physicians and the Royal Society of Medicine elected him to high professional office. For the Department of Health, he undertook the near impossible task of fashioning a scheme to balance better the number of junior training posts and the number of consultant appointments ultimately available to accommodate them—and

made a remarkably good job of it.

It was in his "diabetes life" I knew him best, first as a highly focused clinical scientist, one of the group of bright young persons back from the Army and laying the foundations of sound, science-based medicine in the university departments which lived then in such productive symbiosis with the new NHS.

His concern was with how best to correct the severe disturbance in the body's content of water and salts that occurs when diabetes gets out of control, later with methods for measuring the tiny quantities of insulin in the blood. He was above all a clinician and, despite his high specialism, a generalist doctor at heart.

He was also a collector. As he demitted the Chair of the British Diabetic Association I had the pleasant duty of presenting him with a token of our esteem, a postage stamp for his collection. It was not difficult to discover which one to get, a rare "Dutch cover" which all the informed philatelic agencies knew he was after. He was surprised and delighted and proceeded to deliver a crisp, highly informed disquisition on the stamp and its provenance.

He collected and analysed the case records of all of his diabetic patients and produced a masterly summary of almost 7,000 of them after he retired. He was so authoritative as sometimes to seem authoritarian. A senior consultant friend

asked me why it was that, when "Nab" talked to him, he still felt like a junior house physician. When he first addressed me by my first name, I really felt that I had arrived.

It was entirely in character that the weekend before his death John Nabarro was in North Yorkshire to deliver a philatelic discourse of high quality for which he had been preparing for some weeks. Though increasingly hard of hearing, he was also able to enjoy his grandson's singing in Ripon Cathedral choir. Soon after he returned home, a massive stroke rendered him unconscious and he died a few hours later in the arms of Joan, his wife, with his family around him.

Harry Keen



Nabarro: inspired awe

John David Nunes Nabarro, physician and endocrinologist: born London 21 December 1915; Consultant Physician, Middlesex Hospital 1954-81 (Emeritus); KT 1983; married 1948 Joan Cockrell (two sons, two daughters); died London 28 April 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

SAUNDERS: Basil, on 10 May 1998, at Edgely Hall, Marie Curie Centre. Beloved husband of the late Betty Saunders, loved and missed by sons Bill and Eddy, daughters Kate, Louise, Elin and Charlotte, and grandchildren Tom, George, Felix and Ella. Funeral, 18 May, 3pm, St Mary Brookfield, Dartmouth Park Road, NW5. Enquiries 0171-485 4872.

Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL, telephoned to 0171-203 2011 or faxed to 0171-203 2010, and the royal seal at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales visits the North Yorkshire Moors and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. The Duke of York, accompanied by the Duchess of York, visits the London Marriott Hotel, London. The Duke of York, accompanied by the Duchess of York, visits the London Marriott Hotel, London. The Duke of York, accompanied by the Duchess of York, visits the London Marriott Hotel, London.

Changing of the Guard The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 1pm. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 1pm. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 1pm.

Birthdays

Miss Francesca Annis, actress, 53; Mr Richard Balle, MBE, 54; Ms Hazel Bleas, MBE, 42; Mr Chey Blyth, yachtman, 58; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, 73; Mr Denis Cusumano (Rex Watson), 70; Mr Phil Drabble, playwright, 79; Mr David Henry, actor, 58; Baroness Hogg, journalist and economist, 52; Mr Peter Kirsten, cricketer, 43; Professor Nicholas Kurti, Emeritus Professor of Physics, Oxford University, 90; Mr Edward Newman, MBE, 45; Canon John Oates, Rector, St Bride's, Fleet Street, 68; Mr Robert A. Parker, water-colour artist, 72; Miss Siân Phillips, actress, 64.

Anniversaries

Births: Thomas Gainsborough, painter, baptised 1777; Deshaes August Strindberg, playwright, 1912; Henry John Heinz, food manufacturer, 1919. On this day Louis XIV became king of France, at the age of four, 1643; Edward Jenner was successful in his first public vaccination experiment, 1796; in Palestine, the British mandate ended and Israel was proclaimed an independent state, 1948. Today is the Feast Day of St Carthage the Younger, St Erembert, St Mary Mazzarello, St Matthias, St Michael Garicois and St Pontius of Cimiez.

Lectures

London School of Economics, London WC2: Melvyn Bragg, "British Television and the Culture", 5.30pm.

Schools

Sherborne School The following awards have been made by Sherborne School: Scholarships: Luke Harvey (Eps), Sherborne Preparatory School; Robert Douglas, Wootton Bassett School; Alan Hargrove, Hargrove House; Thomas Crockett, Sherborne Preparatory School; Sebastian Fox, Sherborne Preparatory School; Thomas Mober, Dorset House; James Pearson (Rat), Hargrove House; Geoffrey Tomlinson (Nighting), Hargrove House; Richard Ward, Sherborne Preparatory School; Simon Paul Yates, Sherborne Preparatory School. Exhibitions: Duncan Angus (Paul Baiter), Wootton Bassett School; Robert Douglas, Wootton Bassett School; Alan Hargrove, Hargrove House; Thomas Crockett, Sherborne Preparatory School; Sebastian Fox, Sherborne Preparatory School; Thomas Mober, Dorset House; James Pearson (Rat), Hargrove House; Geoffrey Tomlinson (Nighting), Hargrove House; Richard Ward, Sherborne Preparatory School; Simon Paul Yates, Sherborne Preparatory School. Exhibitions: Duncan Angus (Paul Baiter), Wootton Bassett School; Robert Douglas, Wootton Bassett School; Alan Hargrove, Hargrove House; Thomas Crockett, Sherborne Preparatory School; Sebastian Fox, Sherborne Preparatory School; Thomas Mober, Dorset House; James Pearson (Rat), Hargrove House; Geoffrey Tomlinson (Nighting), Hargrove House; Richard Ward, Sherborne Preparatory School; Simon Paul Yates, Sherborne Preparatory School.

LAW REPORT: 14 MAY 1998

Documentary on funeral homes could be shown

Service Corporation International plc and another v Channel Four Television Corporation and another, Chancery Division (Mr Justice Lightman) 12 May 1998

WHERE a claim in copyright of film was used as a vehicle for a claim which truly lay in defamation, a television company would not be prevented by injunction from showing that film as part of a documentary programme, where they had a good prospect of establishing the defence of public interest.

The plaintiffs' application for an injunction to restrain the defendants from showing certain video film as part of a television documentary on funeral homes on the evening of 12 May was refused.

The second plaintiff, a subsidiary of the first plaintiff, owned and operated 584 fu-

neral homes throughout the UK. In 1997 Ben Anderson, working undercover for the second defendant, which was making a documentary on funeral homes, was employed by the second plaintiff as a trainee funeral director at a funeral home in Salisbury. He covertly filmed certain events at the home, showing corpses being subjected to disrespectful and abusive treatment, and coffins with corpses in them being used as rubbish bins.

Charles Gny QC and Mark Warby (Dibb Lupton, Birmingham) for the plaintiffs; James Price QC and Jacob Dean (D.J. Freeman) for the defendants.

Mr Justice Lightman said that the starting-point in any application such as the present was the fundamental right and public interest in freedom of speech, the press and broadcasters protected by article 10

of the Convention of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

Although the plaintiffs said that their application was motivated by the prospect of distress and concern amongst the 50 families who had used the Salisbury funeral home during the year that the events depicted had taken place, concern for the plaintiffs' reputation and goodwill plainly underlay the application.

If a claim based on some other cause of action was in reality a claim brought to protect the plaintiff's reputation, and the reliance on the other cause of action was merely a device to circumvent the rule against granting an injunction in a claim in defamation, the overriding need to protect freedom of speech required that the same rule be applied. It was very difficult to see the claims made in the present case as oth-

er than attempts to circumvent the rule and to seek protection for the plaintiffs' reputation.

The plaintiffs claimed equitable ownership of the copyright in the film, alleging that Mr Anderson was the "maker" of the film, and had made it during his working hours and in breach of his duties of fidelity owed to the plaintiffs. An employer was, in the absence of an agreement to the contrary, the owner of copyright in a work created by his employee in the course of his employment, and might be entitled in equity to the copyright in a work created by an employee otherwise than in the course of his employment if the employee had created the work in breach of his fiduciary duty to his employer. No breach of fiduciary duty could, however, be seen in the present case.

To succeed in the action the plaintiffs had to establish that

they were entitled to copyright in the film and successfully to resist the defence that the showing of the film was in the public interest. The evidence before the court suggested that the defendants had a good prospect of establishing that defence.

Even if it were thought that the outcome of the litigation was uncertain, the court would exercise its discretion to refuse the injunction for the following reasons: the press and broadcasters should not be silenced on a matter so deeply affecting the public by a claim with limited or uncertain prospects of success; the balance of convenience favoured the refusal of an injunction, since the impact and value of the film depended on timing, news value and topicality; the extraordinary and unacceptable delay by the plaintiffs in applying for the injunction.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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Toughest choices for the NHS

"IF REASONS for choices in health care were made public, the quality of decisions about priorities would improve and the public's understanding increase".

That is the conclusion of the Kings Fund's report on the case of Jaymee Bowen. Of course it is hard to disagree with the idea that there should be more information about the way the National Health Service reaches its decisions. In its fifty years of existence the NHS's rationing of health care on clinical grounds has been, mostly, accepted but not comprehended. An educative process might indeed improve public understanding of the more unpalatable decisions; it cannot answer the crucial question of what body should be charged with making these most difficult choices in the first place.

The case of Jaymee Bowen revolved around whether the Cambridgeshire Health Authority, on the advice of doctors, was right to refuse to spend about £75,000 on a second bone-marrow transplant for her cancer. They judged that it had only the very slimmest chances of success. But there was an alternative opinion available which Jaymee's father naturally pursued. A private doctor agreed that the chances of ultimate survival for Jaymee were low, but thought that she would live longer and that the operation was thus "worth it". In the end the matter was decided by the courts, who agreed with the authority. An anonymous donor paid for the treatment to be done and Jaymee lived for another year or so.

The controversy arose because medical opinion diverged. It became acute because of the cost of the treatment. Circumstances were complicated by the rivalry between the two camps of doctors, who sometimes appeared to treat the case in a political rather than a clinical fashion. Medics are, after all, as prone to factionalism as any of us.

The important question is what is the best forum for the arbitration of the difficult, exceptional cases like Jaymee's. A court of law cannot be ideal. But neither is the "court" of public opinion. The patient or the patient's close family cannot be the ultimate arbiters: they will always look to any hope, even if it is not a realistic hope. Such emotive, complex and technical issues demand that the debate be carried out privately and deliberately by competent people who enjoy the confidence of all those involved. It must be a high and independent body specifically charged with reaching a medical consensus. But the final decision about the commitment of public resources must remain with health service managers, who ought to be accountable to the public. Given the pace of the development of new, expensive drugs and procedures there will be more and more cases like Jaymee. Of course, as the Kings Fund says, health service practitioners should make clear the reasons for the decisions they take. But if that system is to work well we need also to confront the emotional impulse that every treatment, however expensive or unproven, should always be provided by the NHS.

Wakeham fails to hit the target

THE CAPACITY of tabloid newspaper readers to ironise and deconstruct what they read should never be underestimated. Readers of the *Daily Star*, for example, may not score highly on advertisers' wish-lists or academic attainment tests, but they are not stupid enough to take silly headlines about frogs to football literally, especially if they have anything to do with Arsenal, Spurs or any other club which relies on French talent. Committees sitting in sequestered judgement on the handiwork of back-page sub-editors run a grave risk of themselves looking ridiculous.

But it is also the job of the Press Complaints Commission to fire warning shots across editorial bows and the *Star* and rivals tempted to follow its lead need to be warned. The forthcoming World Cup will excite passions and newspapers should report as we all would wish players on the field to behave – with engagement, but responsibly. Lord Wakeham and his colleagues know the score when it comes to international football competition. Who else is in a position to strike pre-emptively when newspapers are in danger of behaving badly? That chance has been open to them for months and the commission should have stirred itself sooner to prevent World Cup coverage becoming tainted by jingoism. In refusing to rule against the *Daily Star's* headline about kicking the French – deemed to be a mere matter of taste, and hence apparently outside the commission's remit – the commission has missed a trick.

Perhaps Lord Wakeham has forgotten that the commission is an adjudicator on trial. Substantive issues of privacy and press intrusion in the context of incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights remain to be settled. This episode can have won the commission few admirers.

Standing up to Stalin

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton is in Germany today to mark 50th anniversary next month of the Berlin airlift. It is worth recalling how it origins were in money, sound money. Stalin's fear of the efficacy of the new West German currency caused him to blockade the sectors of Berlin controlled by the Allies – an action encapsulating the economic perversion at the heart of Soviet Communism. For nearly a year Allied air forces kept the city alive and set the boundary to that containment of the Soviet Union which ended with the collapse of the Wall in 1989. Already the Cold War years seem far off: moments of high drama – such as the first RAF Dakotas trundling into Gatow – fade into the mists of video clips and school texts. But every once in a while, on anniversaries such as this, it is worth pausing to remember and celebrate the right decision, taken at the right time and the good consequences which flowed from it, both for Berliners and the West at large.



Sierra Leone's freedom

Sir: For the first time that I have seen, a correspondent (Letters, 13 May) has sought to set out the views of the Sierra Leonean people in the current rumpus.

The facts, which have been considerably muddled when out ignored, are that on 25 May 1997 the government of Sierra Leone, elected only a year previously in a remarkable demonstration of power by a people determined to rid themselves of military control, was overthrown in a brutal coup organised by the army and the dissident Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

No recognition was given to this regime, which called itself the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), least of all by the people, who maintained a brave stance of non-cooperation. Thousands fled the country, while those that remained risked death and mutilation as well as looting.

Attempts to remove the AFRC by negotiation, led by West African states with the full co-operation in particular of Britain, were abortive. Sanctions here again with Britain taking the lead in the UN, were imposed and the task of trying to ensure compliance was given to the Nigerian-led peace-keeping force Ecomog, which had been assembled to operate in Liberia (and in which there was a Sierra Leonean component).

Sanctions proved ineffective. The AFRC was able to obtain arms and recruit mercenaries to maintain itself in power while it continued to repress and to plunder. Finally Ecomog took forceful action. Freetown was liberated in a few days; but up-country AFRC forces committed unbelievable acts of savagery (killing, maiming, rape and destruction) as they were forced to give ground. Can anyone seriously contend that these things could have been negotiated away?

Now President Tejan-Kabbah has been restored. Refugees are returning. The people's human and civil rights have been restored, and except for Kono, where an AFRC rump is holding out, they can go about their ordinary business and reconstruct their lives.

The people know that it was a

Nigerian-led force that liberated them. They know that international support was mustered by Britain. Hence the adulation given to Peter Penfold as Britain's representative – although they also acknowledge the part played by Tony Lloyd as the minister responsible, who quickly visited them as a member of a Commonwealth ministerial delegation.

Old and discredited Sierra Leonean politicians who hoped to get back under the wing of AFRC have been feeding misinformation to gullible politicians with a voice in Britain. A company whose trade is war is claiming a role that is certainly exaggerated. The media and the Opposition here are seeking to embarrass our government for reasons of domestic political advantage.

Yes, claims and allegations of breaches of UN sanctions have to be investigated. But the Prime Minister's firm statement putting matters in perspective is assuredly to be welcomed. Let us celebrate with the people of Sierra Leone the freedom that we have helped restore to them.

DEREK W. PARTRIDGE
London SE16
The writer was High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, 1986-91

Winning Windows

Sir: David Osborne provides one possible explanation for people's use of Windows: because they like it ("Bill Gates is going into battle with the US government", 12 May). A straw-poll of the Windows users I know provides a different reason: because they have no other viable option. In an ideal market, the consumer has the privilege of choosing the best product for their needs, but we do not live in such enlightened times.

Joel Klein of the US Justice Department should ponder the following problem. Is it better for the consumer to have the option of using many different operating systems

(and associated software) with the hassle of data conversion between different standards, or would he or she prefer standardised Microsoft products which have no competition and consequently less pressure to improve rapidly? Would the amount of time saved using a system booted to perfection by pressure from the "consumer with a choice" offset the extra hours needed to overcome incompatibility problems between rival systems? If the answer is yes, then by all means let us split up Microsoft.

ADRIAN GILBY
Department of Computing
Imperial College
London SW7

Sir: It is ironic that *The Independent* should apparently be oblivious to the effect on a market of a single dominant player. Bill Gates already wields considerably more power in the computer industry than Rupert Murdoch is ever likely to achieve in the media. And rather than innovate Microsoft speeds, in the last three years alone having purchased outright more than 30 technology companies.

It is extremely naive to believe that any monopoly can be benign, even benevolent. Microsoft could achieve sole control both of the desktop, which determines the software you use, and of access to the Internet, which dictates the information you see. In an age of information, control of information is the most dangerous monopoly of all.

ROGER HOUGHTON
Bath

Safer trains

Sir: Dr Arthur Tarrant asks (Letter, 7 May) why the "simple system of ATP" (train stops) used on London Underground cannot be used to address the problem of drivers accidentally passing red signals on the mainline railway.

Such systems are used in some lo-

cations hut are not suitable where speeds are much above 50mph, because of the large stopping distances they involved. The existing Automatic Warning System (AWS) provides similar functionality but can be overridden by the driver. What is needed is something a bit better than train stops or AWS without incurring the massive cost (circa £1,000m) of fitting the network with a full supervision system like ATP.

That "something" is the 'Train Protection Warning System (TPWS). TPWS has taken us three years and about £6m to date to develop. It provides the same functions as AWS plus a train-stop and a speed-trap which the driver cannot override. The speed-trap allows us to give protection at speeds where the train-stop alone would not.

TPWS is just completing a successful trial on part of the Thameslink fleet and route. With the support and co-operation of the train operating companies and rolling stock owners, network-wide fitments should be possible in five to six years – much faster than would be possible for ATP and at about 15 per cent of the cost. Incidentally, the £850m saved does not become profit. It is capital which can then be invested in other things to improve customer service or address other safety issues.

RODERICK MUTTRAM
Director, Safety and Standards
Railtrack
London, NW1

International craze?

Sir: Given the attempts of nations as varied as Norway, Portugal, Poland and Cyprus to increase their chances of winning Eurovision in recent years by adding "Irish" elements to their entries, can we now look forward to a cluster of transsexual singers in the 1999 competition?

RICHARD BARTLE
West Bergholt, Essex

Monarchy mockery

Sir: Very few Australians would agree with Glenister Sheil's assertion (Letter, 11 May) that the Queen's role in the Australian democracy is merely a "congenial reminder of our remarkable constitutional development".

In our recent Constitutional Convention, a very substantial majority clearly rejected the present role of Her Majesty which many think puts such emphasis on the second syllable of "democracy" that our Constitution should be changed to ensure a really Australian head of state and thus to eliminate, once and for all, this mockery.

For that majority and those whom they represent, the only real issue remaining, despite the views of Sheil and his scintillating coterie of monarchists, is how an Australian head of state is to be selected and, if necessary, dismissed. They expect that to be determined before 2000.

JAMES T C BRASSILL
Frankston,
Victoria,
Australia

Sir: W Denis Walker (Letters, 11 May) mentions that Britain's next head of state has been trained for his future role from birth. Did Tony Blair undergo similar training for his role? If not, has the Labour Party received its "New Deal" subsidy for taking on an unskilled worker?

DANIEL SMITH
Aberdeen

First music hall

Sir: Whilst one wishes every success to the Lodon Music Hall Trust in their efforts to secure funds for Wilton's Music Hall (report, 11 May), we should be clear that it is not the oldest surviving building of this kind. The Britannia, in the Trongate in Glasgow, was opened in 1857. Sadly, it has not caught the imagination of the showbusiness world: the process of decay will probably pass the title to Wilton's.

JOHN BURNETT
Curator of the History of Leisure
National Museums of Scotland
Edinburgh

Gloomy outlook in the garden? Just send for Ken and his arboreal assassins



MILES KINGTON

PEOPLE WHO HAVE VERY UNUSUAL JOBS INDEED

No 37: A Contract Tree Killer

"JUST imagine the situation," says Ken Quilter (not his real name). "You're a retired couple. You've got a nice restful garden with a sunny lawn. Then one day the next door neighbour plants a line of fast-growing *Leylandii*. They push up like Jack's beanstalk and before you know where you are, there's a big dark wall of green looming over YOUR garden, making your life a misery and cutting out half the light. What do you do?"

Creep next door at night and chop the things down?

"But what if you get caught? Do you know what the law will do to you if you are caught rearranging your neighbour's garden?"

I don't know, no.

"No, quite. So what you do is send for me, and I do the dirty work for you. Call

me a hatchet man, if you like."

Ken Quilter (not his real name) laughs at his own joke. Well, he is entitled. He is, after all, a contract killer, even if only of trees.

"Well, yes, in the sense that an ogler is a fish-killer or a florist is a flower-killer, I suppose that is what I am. But Tree Disposal is what it says on my business card."

And there's a demand for it?

"Enormous," says Ken Quilter, whose real name is Nigel Footley, which is not his real name either. "Look, just think about it. There's this huge bank of *Leylandii* staring at you, which you hate. You want to get rid of it. If you, the householder, do it, you'll be arrested. If you hire an unknown to do it, and pay cash in used fivers, you're safe. As long as you've got an alibi, to prove you couldn't have carried out the revenge, of course. When I'm doing a job I always advise the client to be elsewhere. In Barbados for two weeks,

preferably. That's what I call a good alibi."

Has he ever been caught?

"Funnily enough, the biggest danger is not of being caught to the act of tree chopping, but just of being caught on someone else's property, because then people will suspect you're a burglar, which is far more serious. Nobody ever jumps to the conclusion that you're just there to remove trees!"

Yes. But has he ever been caught?

"Let's just say I've had to talk my way out of some pretty odd situations. I was once paid to remove quite a large sycamore, and that required a lot of climbing about in the upper branches, planning the operation. Guess what I was arrested for?"

"Don't know."

"Being a peeping Tom! They let me go, though."

Why?

"I'm short-sighted. Couldn't see a thing from up there, let alone a lady through a

bathroom window. That's what I told the police, anyway."

But how did he ever manage to remove a whole sycamore tree undetected?

"Ah – me and my gang dressed up as council workers. Zipped in and chopped the tree down. By the time local outrage was up and going and getting organised, it was too late. We'd scurried. Council got it in the neck for removing a protected tree. Council mystified. Very."

"Funnily enough, the big jobs are often the easiest. It's like stealing a grand piano. Nobody stops you, because they can't believe you're not authorised. But you have to be really careful stealing into people's gardens and eliminating their *Leylandii*. A contract killer doing an assassination can kill someone in a second. You can't saw down a tree in a second. And sawing and chopping are bloody noisy, so I have to make sure the coast is clear. Planning, planning, planning..."

Isn't it dangerous work?

"Can be. I sawed through something I thought was a root once. Turned out to be a mains cable. The effect was electric!"

But what about trees falling on top of you, things like that?

"Never happens. Want to know why? Because I never let trees fall down! Even when I've severed the trunks of a line of *Leylandii* I prefer to keep them standing up – prop them up, tie them all together, lean them against something, whatever it takes. What this means is that they may remain standing for days after I've sawn through at the bottom, so the crime isn't discovered until long after I'm off the scene. Sometimes I pass by a garden which I did weeks before, and the trees are still standing. Going brown, of course. Often they're watering it like mad to keep it going. No use, of course. Perhaps I should tell them."

And there again, perhaps not.

Over-tidy neighbours and backward-walking Lords



JOHN WALSH

There are two kinds of neighbour, in my experience. One is the meek and elderly Mrs Gogentyn into that goodnight, whose husband died 16 years ago of asbestosis, who now smells faintly of dead mouse, and who devotes her twilight years to reading *OK!* magazine, eating custard creams and greeting you on the doorstep with the words: "Allo dear. Off to business?"

The other kind is a horrible bald man called something like Mike Hole, who crams his family of tiny delinquents into a purple Honda Civic, wears Ben Sherman shirts while plying his Black & Decker sanding device in the garden on Sunday afternoons and plays old Blue Oyster Cult records through your wall at such a volume that the Shaker figurines on your mantelpiece come crashing down on the head of the sleeping dog. Neighbours-wise, those are your two basic models, the musty and the nasty. But reading about Mr Kevin Preece this week gave me a job of recognition. With neighbours, as with close encounters, there's a Third Kind.

Mr Preece is the Welsh chap who became so obsessed with tidiness he took to threatening people living beside his bijou Cardiff home. Before he was put on 12 months' probation, the court heard how he kept his flat spotless, then started to pick up litter outside his front door, graduated to clearing away the leaves in the courtyard at Cathays Terrace, spent five hours a day sweeping the street and, by a logical but alarming progression, began checking through windows to see that his neighbours were keeping the insides of their homes up to scratch.

The last straw came when he stood in the street yelling at a woman undergraduate that, if she didn't tidy up her room, he'd blow up her car. It has been suggested that Mr Preece may be "suffering from a form of obsessive-compulsive disorder". I wonder where they got that idea.

The thing is, I'm sure I know Mr Preece. I'm convinced that, before he departed for Wales, he used to live upstairs from me in Putney, south London. He was an unusual Neighbour from Hell in being neither noisy or nosy, just ludicrously punctilious.

He once, without a by-your-leave, removed from the communal doorbell the card on which my name was messily inscribed and replaced it with a typed version. He bought one of those devices with a moveable arrow to tell the milkman how many pints you require, although it was, sadly, stuck on "One" all year. He arranged the letters in the hallway into a neat pile each day with the tax demands at the bottom and the postcard from Goa at the top.

His fastidiousness was linguistic. He talked like a brochure or a police report. He fretted that the opening of a Chinese takeaway near-by would attract "youths". Once he sent me a note saying: "There is a quantity of refuse emanating from the vicinity of your kitchen which is unsightly and unhygienic. Could you therefore...?" (I went to check. An empty, economy-size pack of Doritos corn chips had fallen out of the wheelie-bin). I could happily have strangled him with his own vacuum flex. The feckless slobs of Cathays Terrace have all my sympathy.

I cannot agree with the recent directive from Buckingham Palace that the Lord Chancellor will no longer be required to walk backwards in front of the Queen at the State Opening of Parliament. Some prosaic *chef de protocol* has decided that, because the legal pandrum has to descend some steps during the procession, it would be "more comfortable and safer" if he did it frontwards rather than risk plummeting onto his ermine posterior.

Okay, it'll be better for Lord Irvine. But what about the rest of us? Many taxpayers who have followed the saga of his Lordship's expensive home furnishings would prefer to get more value for money out of him. Personally, I would insist that he not only walks backwards in front of the Queen but keeps her amused with feats of juggling and card tricks, serenades her with "Oh Dem Golden Slippers" on the banjo, and attempts to perform that old Marcel Marceau mine of a man feeling his way across an invisible wall. I'm sure this vaudevilian routine would make a lot of people "more comfortable".

Many executives from television companies have looked through *Hello!* magazine, clocked the gurning faces of the rich and sort-of-famous in their delightful homes, and wondered: could there be a television version? A series of opulent, candid encounters to camera, guided by a presenter with a gift for putting celebrities at their ease. Many producers tried, but the magazine (which celebrates its 10th birthday this week - see Louise Levene on page 15) has always replied with the Spanish equivalent of "Eff off".

Only once did they agree to talk to a TV company about such a plan, and that was because of the calibre of the presenter they were offering. Who was it? Why, Charles Spencer, the heir of Althorp and scourge of journalists everywhere.

He was happy, it seems, to become the television equivalent of the Marquess; in fact, he only pulled out because his father died and he reasoned, sensibly, that it wouldn't do for an Earl to welcome the telly-watching masses into the homes of their betters. It is one of the revelations in *Earl Spencer: Saint or Sinner?*, Richard Barber's splendidly gossipy, if unauthorised, biography of the great man, published next Thursday.

To bolster his researches, Mr Barber called on the opinions of a score of commentators, some well-disposed to the subject, some positively toxic. Among them is David Starkey, the atraitious historian, who calls the Earl every name under the sun: his funeral speech was, says Starkey, "utterly tasteless and repugnant", "judiciously overblown", "antagonistic" and "preposterous", and the man himself "a self-delusionist" who is destined to become merely "a steady source of increasingly sordid stories for increasingly sordid newspapers".

When Starkey's final words in the book are: "Charles Spencer has had his six and a half minutes of fame. But that's it." According to Mr Barber, what Starkey actually said was: "If I were him, I'd top myself." The publishers left it out. Grounds of taste, apparently.

That part of your stockpile will survive an initial attack. A country as poor as India should not be wasting resources on weapons that might only tempt a pre-emptive strike by an adversary; it is economic lunacy.

But who can blame India for acting as it has? You are the world's largest democracy, its second most populous country. But to the north-east you are bordered by an acknowledged nuclear power, China, which in 1962 handed you a stinging military defeat, and on the north-west by an undeclared one, Pakistan, against whom you have already fought three wars and whose nuclear programme has been helped along by none other than China.

If those aren't grounds for national insecurity, what is? Small wonder support for the tests inside India has been overwhelming. Economic lunacy, sadly, can sometimes be short-term political gold.

At least things are clearer now. India must henceforth be counted the sixth declared nuclear power. Quite possibly Pakistan will carry out one or more tests in retaliation, thus becoming the seventh. But suppose, as Delhi hinted yesterday, the two countries then announce they have completed their programmes and sign up to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, from which they are the principal absentees. Would the rest of us really be worse off than a week ago, when we could only guess at what has now been revealed?

Spare me and my fellow men from the new orthodoxy: female good, male bad



DAVID AARONOVITCH

I HAD that Fay Weldon in the back of my studio the other day (I present a books programme for Channel 4), and she was saying that she was worried for men. Not so much for the old dinosaurs, who still think (wrongly) that they rule the earth, but the younger ones, who are not having a very good time. Not only have they lost - like Britain after Suez (my analogy) - a series of old, traditional roles, but their fumbling attempts to find new ones are mocked. Indeed, their very maleness is the subject of continual derision. They are subjected to what she calls "hatespeak".

Anyway, the next morning reading my copy of *The Independent*, I turned first - as ever - to the article by my talented colleague Suzanne Moore, dealing with the revelations of Paul Johnson's adultery. Suzanne was not surprised that the florid Thatcherite enjoyed illicit spanking, and she went on, wearily, "the repertoire of male sexual behaviour is so limited, I could almost feel sorry for them".

Hold on, I thought, does she mean me? Not personally, but everything on the planet with whiskers and vesicles? And if being spanked by a mistress is a sign of a limited repertoire, what represents a multifarious one? Oh please, let it not be the old feminist "cover me in chocolate" one again.

And was this polite "hatespeak"? What, I wondered, would have been made of an article in which a male writer had casually remarked that "women are not, by nature, innovators and one must simply accept the fact"? And yes, I do think that that is a roughly equivalent sentiment.

You see, what I think is being said by Suzanne (and not just by her) is essentially this: all men are wankers. They are wankers literally and - more important - metaphorically. There is something in men that tends to hopelessness, to perpetual adolescence, to retardation. That is presumably why thirtyish women search endlessly for the elusive Mr Right, because most men are so obviously Mr Wrong. It's why, in soap operas, the chaps are stunted, often violent, incapable of communication, or else - a new category this - vapid but pretty boy-men (nice buns, shame about the brain).

Television measures how far (in Fay's words) men have become the "new women". Yesterday, on daytime TV, the Richard and Judy show invited viewers



Men have become the 'new women' - objects to be toyed with and joked about

Bluestone/TCL

to ring and discuss the topic: "I married a corker, but now he's a porker." Accordingly, women, using their real names, phoned ITV with hilarious tales of their husbands' piggings. But imagine that the topic had been "I married a himbo, now she's a beach-hall"? What man - if he wanted to live - would tell a TV presenter, live on air, how fat his wife had become? It is inconceivable, and not least because, as we know, men who overeat are greedy - while women who overeat are unhappy. And we also know whose fault that is.

Or take Viagra (I will). Can you picture a TV discussion concerning a new pill to increase women's often lamentably low libido, involving men talking about how the old gal had perked up since she started taking Clitalot? Once

chasing female values, female readers, viewers and listeners at all costs. And in chucking out the old male vices of defence and pomposity, they have set about destroying some of the virtues as well. So it's goodbye to earnest suits discussing European Monetary Union on TV, and hello to yet another edition of *Vanessa* and "My dad ran off with my boyfriend".

An excellent version of the orthodoxy was penned by Allison Pearson in yesterday's *Evening Standard*. Writing re poor old Paul, she said, "My generation [ie modern women] believes in serial monogamy. Previous generations [ie men] believed in multiple hypocrisy. We believe in truth in relationships, no matter how destructive. They believed in lies, no matter how

son seem to me to make for bad marriages and unhappy men.

Oh well, says a husky primeval voice in my ear, who cares? Men still run things, give or take a country or two. Let the gals have their fun. As long as we sell papers or programmes, or garner votes, what, me worry? Who gave Suzanne her column in the first place? Joan of Arc?

The husky voice is wrong. There is a gender revolution going on, and it is 90 per cent positive. The communication and social skills that girls possess (possibly innately) are now required: the concentrated, autistic or physical attributes of men are less in demand. The future is female, so we are - even if we stop abusing men - in danger of raising generations of young males who are sullen, demotivated, lacking in self-esteem, but still strong and brimming over with testosterone.

I have no desire to regress. I have always enjoyed the company of women more than that of men and I celebrate the emergence of a new cohort of intelligent and confident young women. I would hate to go back to the days when female potential was stifled, subordinated to the power of men who were never their equals. But I am now becoming burned up with a desire to progress, to move the debate on. To talk about what we are going to do to help boys in school; about how their mothers and fathers should haul them off the soccer pitch and make them do their homework; about how they might benefit more from parents being around during the day and what we're going to do about it.

And let us, for God's sake, find something in male sexuality to enjoy. After all, even women prefer a stiff willy to a perpetually soft one. Or so I am told.

What man would tell a TV presenter, live on air, how fat his wife had become?

again, if a man's equipment fails he needs a tonic; if women aren't getting it up, then it's likely to be hubby's fault.

These double standards extend to questions like adultery. I am struck by the incongruity of women mocking men who have affairs, while themselves often callously plotting to carry off other women's blokes. Or of mistresses who tape their lovers for the Sunday newspapers and then complain about his "betrayal" of his own wife.

But this is the coming orthodoxy: female good, male bad. Even before Diana died editors and producers were

corrupting. And which is better for the health of society?"

This is a good question. I'm not at all sure that some hypocrisy (and families staying together) isn't better for kids and grown-ups than serial monogamy with its endless divorces and remarriages. And I feel some ambivalence about "truth", too. What, after all, constitutes truth in something as complex as a relationship? Does truth allow you to make love when you do not feel like it, simply for the sake of your partner? Or must you be honest and refuse? Either of the polarities offered by Pearson seem to me to make for bad marriages and unhappy men.

In fact, arms reduction talks between the US and Russia, who together possess more than 90 per cent of the world's nuclear arsenal, are at a standstill, while our own defence planners refuse even to examine the future of Britain's strategic deterrent. With that sort of example, India is understandably not inclined to take lessons.

Listen here India - do as nuclear nations say, not as they do



RUPERT CORNWELL

WELL, as I'm sure they don't say in Delhi, in for a paissa, in for a rupee. In other words, if you've brought sanctions, cuts in foreign aid and the wrath of every righteous nation upon your head for conducting three

nuclear tests, what have you got to lose by carrying out two more a couple of days later? Thus, at one level, may be interpreted this week's underground pyrotechnics by India. But contrary to much received wisdom - not to mention the cant issuing forth from the world's chancelleries - they may not be quite the disaster they are being depicted.

Of course, the move is self-debilitating, as the plunge in the rupee and Indian share prices yesterday indicates. "Mad" (the doctrine of Mutual Assured Destruction) might have prevented the Cold War turning hot, but the Indian subcontinent is still a long way from that sort of unwinnable stalemate. Mad implies a second-strike capacity, the certainty

that part of your stockpile will survive an initial attack. A country as poor as India should not be wasting resources on weapons that might only tempt a pre-emptive strike by an adversary; it is economic lunacy.

But who can blame India for acting as it has? You are the world's largest democracy, its second most populous country. But to the north-east you are bordered by an acknowledged nuclear power, China, which in 1962 handed you a stinging military defeat, and on the north-west by an undeclared one, Pakistan, against whom you have already fought three wars and whose nuclear programme has been helped along by none other than China.

If those aren't grounds for

national insecurity, what is? Small wonder support for the tests inside India has been overwhelming. Economic lunacy, sadly, can sometimes be short-term political gold.

At least things are clearer now. India must henceforth be counted the sixth declared nuclear power. Quite possibly Pakistan will carry out one or more tests in retaliation, thus becoming the seventh. But suppose, as Delhi hinted yesterday, the two countries then announce they have completed their programmes and sign up to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, from which they are the principal absentees. Would the rest of us really be worse off than a week ago, when we could only guess at what has now been revealed?

Officially, of course, no one can admit as much, least of all the club of established nuclear powers. Bill Clinton has imposed sanctions on India, which he never did on fellow club-member China, while Britain proclaims its "shock and dismay" at Delhi's "flagrant disregard" of international opinion.

But India is only treading the path we took 40 years ago. Britain retains nuclear weapons because they are a ticket to the top table, permanent membership of the UN Security Council, and India is entitled to aspire to the same. If nuclear weapons are one reason Britain likes to think it "punches above its weight", a lack of them is one reason India believes it has never counted as it should in world affairs.

Once again, we come to the flaw at the heart of the non-proliferation argument. By what absolute right do Britain, France, the US, Russia and China insist that they alone should possess nuclear weapons? If they really want to persuade others not to develop them, they should travel faster and further down that road themselves.

In fact, arms reduction talks between the US and Russia, who together possess more than 90 per cent of the world's nuclear arsenal, are at a standstill, while our own defence planners refuse even to examine the future of Britain's strategic deterrent. With that sort of example, India is understandably not inclined to take lessons.

Don't tell Peter

EVEN your best friends won't tell you... at least not when reshuffle time is fast approaching in the Tory Party. But Pandora is happy to let you know that it seems almost certain the Boy Wonder will rearrange his team at the end of this month, whether or not Tony Blair does the same. There is a very strong rumour that Hague wants to move Peter Lilley out of his shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer role in order to bring in John Redwood. Lilley has made a rather feeble showing against Gordon Brown, while the emotionless brainiac Redwood has been all over the airwaves on every possible issue. Pandora's hot tips for election from the Tory backbenches are Ann Widdecombe and Cheryl Gillan, MP for Chesham and Amersham,

who has made a good impression for her work on the millennium bug.

Pray it opens

WORD has reached Pandora of a remarkable achievement. According to Russian news wire Itar-Tass, a Russian Orthodox priest has become the first clergyman to reach the North Pole via parachute. Immediately upon landing, Father Viktor Smetannikov planted a cross in the ice and commenced praying. According to Father Viktor: "The pole has a purifying power. It is an exceptional place on the globe and God doesn't allow anyone to go there." However, he added a cautionary note to any pilgrims tempted to follow in his footsteps. "Praying at the North Pole doesn't seem particularly beneficial."

PANDORA

Gore's Guess

YOU WILL not be surprised to learn that Gore Vidal has a unique slant on Clinton's Zippertgate problems. America's most acidic essayist believes the president's woes all began when he and Hillary put forward their new healthcare plan (later crushed in the Congress) that threatened the US insurance industry. "It's a warning to all other politicians, 'Don't touch our money or we will do to you what we did to the Clintons,'" says Vidal. As for special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, Vidal told *USA Today* that he might eventually be charged with treason and imprisoned. "Just because you don't

like somebody... you're not free to spend the people's money trying to see if he likes to [bleep] girls." Don't forget, Gore is the same fantasist who created Myra Breckinridge.

Poor Pamela

WHEN it comes to casting the lead characters in "important" bio-pics, Hollywood sometimes goes hilariously astray. Remember Montgomery Clift as a gentle Freud or Kirk Douglas as a boringly sane Van Gogh? Literature lovers have recently been horrified to learn that play-it-cute actress Meg Ryan has her heart set on playing the tortured poetess Sylvia Plath. Now, 20th-century history buffs will be appalled to learn the casting details of an

American television network's production about the late Pamela Harriman. Who has been chosen to portray the clever former US ambassador to France and legendary femme fatale?

The former glamour babe Ann-Margret (right), that's who. This suggests a new parlour game, Hollywood History, in which we can all play casting director and the most implausible pairing wins. How about Paula Yates as Mrs Thatcher? Goldie Hawn as Benazir Bhutto? Madonna as Mother Teresa?



Which bank has excellent TESSAs



Warmer

Soros
may -
have
lost his
Midas
touch

source: Bloomberg

Soros did not move the pound this time



OUTLOOK
ON THE FACTORS
DRIVING EXCHANGE
RATES: THE
FIGHT-BACK BY SAFE-
WAY; AND A
SILLY CHANNEL TUN-
NEL STORY

THERE is probably more nonsense written about the exchange rate than any other subject in finance. People who have to think hard about whether they should divide or multiply to convert a foreign currency into pounds nevertheless feel equipped to proclaim where the exchange rate ought to be, and why and when it will get there.

The Bank of England and Mervyn King, its deputy governor, are more modest. The Bank freely admits to not understanding why the exchange rate has risen as far as it has. None of the obvious explanations – stronger UK growth, rising interest rates, or the pound as a safe haven against a weak euro – can fully account for sterling's climb during the past 18 months. Equally, while everybody agreed that sterling was overvalued given the economic fundamentals, there is no obvious reason why it should have started falling with such dispatch from its unreasonable height just over a month ago.

The one thing that can certainly be discounted as the catalyst is the intervention of George Soros. Huge numbers of people and funds have been engaging in the purchase of put options – the right to sell sterling at a lower rate in three months' time. The \$6.8bn Soros is reported to have spent was a drop in this ocean, even if it is true that the arch-financier did catch the tide of market sentiment exactly on the turn. That in itself seems to be in doubt, with some traders claiming that in point of fact he was relatively late into the trend. If true, he's obviously losing his touch.

However, the mere fact that he is be-

ing acclaimed in some quarters as the saviour of the British economy by riding to the rescue of exporters and pushing sterling lower sheds an illuminating light on why the outlook for the exchange rate is so important at the moment.

The strong pond is cited by hawks on the Bank of England's monetary policy committee (MPC) as an important reason why inflation has stayed out too far above its target. Domestic demand is belting away at a still-uncomfortable rate. Other inflationary pressures are starkly revealed by yesterday's shock earnings figures. Without falling costs for imported goods and materials, retail price inflation would have been significantly higher for the past two years.

However, if the pound falls now, it does not give the hawks an open and shut case for raising interest rates. Quite the reverse if the weaker exchange rate anticipates economic slowdown and market expectations of the lower interest rates that will result. But if the depreciation is due to, say, a change of heart about the strength of the new euro, or to the likelihood that domestic inflationary pressure will worsen the balance of payments, it is reason to counteract it with tighter monetary policy.

The point is that there is no hard and fast connection between the exchange rate and interest rates. The long term interests of the UK economy, and this goes for its exporters too, are best served by keeping a steady eye on the inflation target, and commensurate with the parallel aim of achieving sustainable growth, adjusting interest rates to hit it. It is members of the

MPC, and not the speculators, who have the interests of UK PLC most at heart.

Rumours grind down Safeway

POOR OLD Safeway's. It was perhaps inevitable that as hard as management might try to focus attention on the group's trading figures, everyone was far more interested in the "will-they, won't they" saga of the company's on-off merger with Asda. Safeway is adamant that the whole thing is a no-no. No talks, no advisers meeting in country hotels or chief executives slipping silently into tete-a-tetes at City solicitor offices. Nothing. The nearest thing to a meeting was in February, Safeway says, when its chairman David Webster attended the same shooting party as Asda's Archie Norman. Now please, please, just concentrate on our rather pleasing current trading statement won't you?

Their frustration demands sympathy. Unfortunately, the rumour mill is grinding away to such vigour that it is hard to ignore it. Whether or not the speculation is true, there are enough people in the City willing it to happen that you never know, it might just do so. The more they stir the pot, the more chance they have of bringing the union to fruition.

All this is destabilising for Safeway, which has enough on its plate at the moment. It is a distant fourth in the supermarket battle and its sales per square foot are still significantly adrift. There's now a renewed push on sales, but the cost in terms of investment

in its loyalty card, advertising and more staff is a heavy one. Any sales growth that materialises will be low profit.

The other problem is that we have been here before. A few years ago Safeway claimed it had made a quantum leap with its Safeway 2000 initiative only to find the wheels coming off a little while later. Safeway's present trading performance may be relatively better than Sainsbury's but the City will want to see more than six weeks worth of good numbers before it believes that this business has turned the corner.

Fighting back was hard enough for Sainsbury's, which had the benefit of a strong brand and a strong number two market position. For Safeway, coming back from fourth with a weaker brand and store portfolio will be much, much tougher. And all the while Asda will be watching and waiting.

Thatcher's legacy for the Tunnel

THE SILLY SEASON has arrived early. There are still two months to go before Parliament rises for the summer recess and newspapers are obliged to hunt harder than usual for items to fill their news columns. But already the first story of the season has been spotted and it concerns that barely perennial, the Channel Tunnel.

According to a front-page report earlier this week, Eurotunnel has begun sounding out the City on plans to build a second "drive-through" tunnel to France. To avoid congestion and the threat of

accidents, cars would be electronically routed through on "guided roads".

Alas, the story is not new. In fact it is 12 years' old. Eurotunnel's 1987 prospectus contained a section stating that under the concession agreement it is required to put forward proposals for a second link by 2000. But that is only one small part of the story. It does not have to work up a scheme, much less cost it and find the money. Moreover the drive-through link would only be built if technical and economic conditions permitted and it would not undermine the finances of the existing tunnel.

Finally, Eurotunnel has until 2020 to decide whether to build a second link and, for the purposes of financial projections, it does not have to assume that any such link would be built before the current concession expires in 2086.

Since Eurotunnel is only now emerging from the biggest debt restructuring in British corporate history and since shareholders will not see a dividend until 2006 at the earliest, the idea of a second link seems a rather cruel joke to play on the investment community.

What's more, the idea of a drive-through link was only ever inserted into the original concession to satisfy the training Mrs Thatcher. Even if the engineers could conquer the monumental problem of how to ventilate a drive-through tunnel, would it remotely fit into John Prescott's integrated transport policy? Eurotunnel has one man working very part time on the scheme, which probably says all that is needed. The world's bankers can sleep safely at night for a generation or two yet.

Lloyds TSB chief lays into rivals

By Lea Paterson

ONE of the most respected figures in UK banking yesterday launched a scathing attack on the tactics employed by most of his competitors.

Sir Brian Pitman, chairman of Lloyds TSB, claimed the supermarket banks were losing money on each customer and heaped scorn on Barclays' "disastrous" expansionary aims of the late 1980s. He also fired a warning shot to his high-cost competitors, saying the lower-cost banks could make their lives "unbearable".

The Lloyds chief said he was amazed by how few people in banking sat down and studied the market. The man who transformed Lloyds into the UK's largest bank, via the purchases of the TSB and Cheltenham & Gloucester, also criticised the belief that biggest is best.

Speaking at an Institute of Economic Affairs conference in Central London, Sir Brian said: "It's dead easy to increase market share. Just charge lower prices and/or take on more risk. Global market leadership is a cup-out for satisfactory re-

turn on shareholders' funds."

Perhaps the only banks to emerge unscathed from Sir Brian's speech were the Scottish institutions. Sir Brian held up Royal Bank of Scotland and Bank of Scotland as examples of companies that "produce outstanding results although they have a much smaller market share". He added: "Rightly or wrongly, the Scottish banks have an excellent reputation. Very few people come to me and say the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Bank of Scotland are awful."

The new savings accounts opened by many of the supermarkets also came under attack from the Lloyds chief. He said: "Every time you have £10 on deposit at 6.75 per cent you make a loss. If customers take out their money tomorrow, you make a bigger loss."

Sir Brian added that Lloyds could, if it wanted, win customers from Tesco by changing its pricing tactics. "But we're absolutely delighted Tesco have got them [the customers]", he said.

Tesco came in for praise elsewhere in Sir Brian's speech, though. He said the supermarket group's "low per unit



Sir Brian Pitman claimed supermarket banks were losing money and heaped scorn on Barclays' 1980s growth strategy

cost" had allowed it to "give Sainsbury's hell". He added: "Those of us with a low-cost format in the mortgage market could make life unbearable for those who haven't."

Lloyds is generally regarded as one of the most efficient traditional retail banks. Its cost-income ratio is 51.3 per cent, compared to 67.6 per cent for Barclays and 73.8 per cent for NatWest.

Sir Brian used Barclays' "number one by 1991" campaign of the late 1980s to illustrate his view that "volume is vanity; profit is sanity".

Richard Reay-Smith, chief executive of retail banking at Barclays, followed Sir Brian on the podium and said: "I find myself in agreement with everything he said, not least to his characterisation of Barclays in the late 1980s."

White House to look into mega-mergers

By David Usborne
in New York

THE US government yesterday announced an investigation into the rash of corporate mergers in the United States, as it emerged that top executives of the Chrysler Corporation stand to pocket as much as \$110 (£60m) in a share windfall if the planned Daimler-Chrysler merger goes through.

The revelation is sensitive because it raises a question about the motives of company executives in seeking to consummate mergers. The issue is certain to be one of those put under the microscope by the White House. It said it was forming a panel to look into the recent tide of mergers and consider whether they are doing unacceptable harm to competition in the US economy.

The White House mergers panel is expected to be headed by George Spelling, chairman of

the National Economic Council, with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin among its members. What action the administration could take to slow down the pace of corporate mergers is unclear, however.

One White House official commented: "When there is a major trend like this in American business, there is a presumption that you need to take a look at it. There is no presumption that you need to act."

Aside from the Daimler-Chrysler pact, American business has been mesmerised in recent weeks by such mega-mergers as Travelers-Cliticorp and, in the telecommunications, SBC-Ameritech, which was unveiled this week.

Documents filed by Chrysler with the Securities and Exchange Commission show the company's top executives will make the money by converting options granted them under their current pay deals into

shares of the merged entity. Robert Eaton, Chrysler's chief executive officer, could see his own collect shares worth \$100m. The executives would free to sell of the shares immediately.

The \$110 likely to land in the laps of the Chrysler executives is calculated on the assumption that the merger would price Chrysler at \$61 a share.

In addition, any Detroit executives who lose their jobs as a result of the deal are to be offered multi-million-dollar golden parachutes.

Asked about the status of his own options at last week's press conference announcing the deal, Mr Eaton was unwilling to comment.

"My personal situation never came to mind. We are trying to create the leading auto company in the world for the future of all stakeholders," he retorted.

Littlechild calls for break-up of Scottish electricity system

By Michael Harrison

THE ELECTRICITY regulator Professor Stephen Littlechild caused outrage north of the border yesterday after calling for the Scottish power transmission system to be split off from the country's two electricity producers.

In a consultation paper outlining his support for separate ownership of electricity supply and distribution businesses, Professor Littlechild said that Scottish Power and Hydro-Electric should be obliged to put the Scottish transmission system and the interconnector to England and Wales into separate ownership. As an in-

terim measure until the legislation was in place, he said their transmission businesses should be placed into separate subsidiaries with their own staff.

The regulator argued that the move would increase competition in electricity generation and supply. But a spokesman for Scottish Power said it would increase costs by several million pounds a year. "Professor Littlechild has taken an extreme position based on a number of misconceptions and we will be writing to him spelling this out and making some points of our own about how competition in Scotland is facilitated."

He also maintained that transmission charges were

lower in Scotland than in England, where the system is owned and operated separately by the National Grid.

Separation of electricity distribution – the local wires monopoly – from supply – the actual sale of electricity, was proposed in the Government's Green Paper on utility regulation in March. However, it left open the option of whether this could be achieved by splitting the ownership or simply by issuing separate licences for different parts of the business.

The regulator's preference is for full separation of ownership, although the consultation paper does not spell out how this would be achieved.

R-R faces £10m claim over licence deal

By Michael Harrison

ROLLS-ROYCE Motor Cars is facing a £10m claim in the High Court after allegedly reneging on a deal to license the use of its famous trademarks such as the Spirit of Ecstasy on a range of products from perfume to sports goods.

If the action succeeds then one small part of the Rolls-

Royce heritage will remain in British hands after the two German carmakers Volkswagen and BMW have settled their battle for control of the company.

The litigation came to light in the circular to shareholders sent out yesterday by Rolls' parent company, Vickers, urging them to back VW's £430m bid for the luxury car maker.

The British company Classic

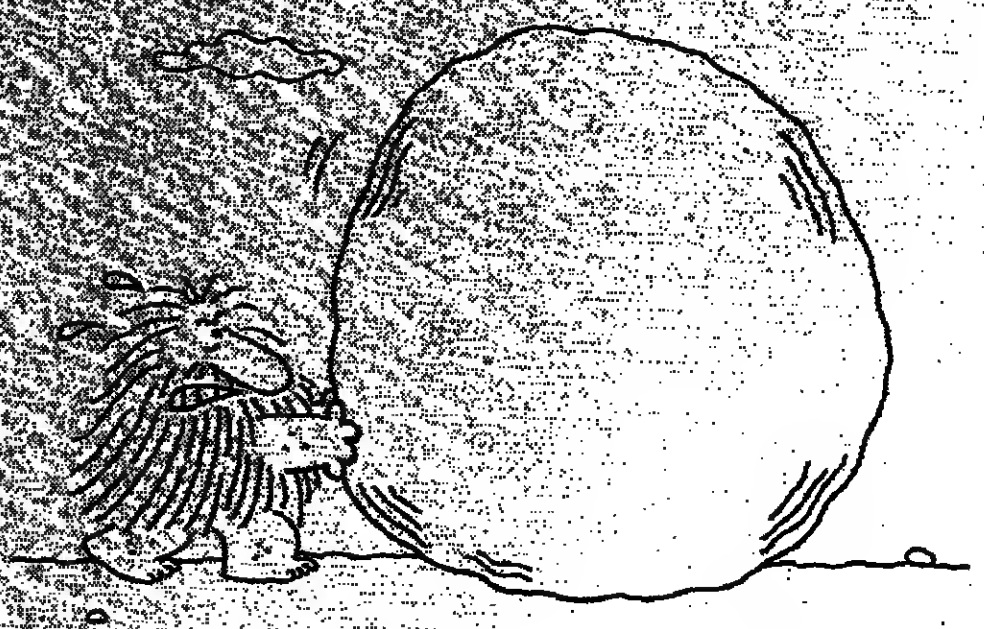
Licensing, part owned by the group that runs the Trocadero complex in London's West End, was granted a licence by R-RMC in May 1996 to use all its trademarks, except for the Rolls-Royce name itself, on a range of perfumes. The agreement was subsequently extended.

But following a change of management at R-RMC the licence was withdrawn a year

later on the grounds that Classic Licensing had not submitted the products it proposed to market for approval.

A writ was issued in last June but Classic Licensing agreed to stay proceedings pending discussions with R-RMC. Proceedings were reactivated this month after Classic Licensing said it became clear R-RMC had no intention of granting a licence.

Those who evolve succeed.



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Sage accounts for its star rating

THE STOCK MARKET charms of financial stocks and pharmaceuticals may be fading, but computer software companies are still flying high at the moment. Strong results from Sage, which develops and distributes branded accounting software to over a million business customers, only served to increase the optimism surrounding the sector yesterday.

It announced a 24 per cent rise in profits to £24m in the six months to the end of March, about £1m more than the City expected.

Sage has yet to see the benefits to the bottom line from the high demand for its services from the millennium bug and the creation of the euro. Europe's new currency. Acquisitions are on the cards and its recently acquired US technology will give it plenty of opportunity to build up new markets in the UK. The results are all the more impressive given that the strength of sterling reduced profits by £700,000. UK earnings rose a third to £13.6m, against a modest 7.5 per cent improvement in continental Europe.

Software companies have been on the crest of a wave over the last few years and the market is still growing rapidly. Of course, the sector is not immune to a cyclical downturn. But if and when it comes they are less likely to suffer from shortages of skilled personnel than the pure IT groups.

And Sage is one of the best companies in the software sector. It has proved to be one of the stock market's dazzling stars over the last few years. Analysts forecast its rapid earnings growth is likely to continue. They have upgraded profit forecasts for the full year by £3m to £48m, rising to £65.2m in the year to September 1999.

But the rub is that Sage is now sitting on an astronomical rating. The shares, which have risen 60 per cent since the start of the year, jumped another 45p to 1,387.5p yesterday. That sort of rating leaves no room for mistakes and even stock market stars must fall to earth sometime. High enough.

CU and GA are caught in a storm

WHEN Commercial Union and General Accident announced their £14bn merger three months ago it was clear that one of the main reasons for the deal was to counter problems caused by the dire insurance market. Since then things have gone from bad to worse and the deal could not have come a moment too soon.

Severe weather claims have taken a heavy toll on both companies. The worst ice storm in living memory hit Canada, costing GA £72m and dragging profits down from £114m to £63m. Bad weather also cost CU £35m, throwing its general insurance wing into a loss of £4m. Overall, first-quarter profits fell from £102m to £40m.

Both companies have still to absorb the cost of floods in April, which is likely to do similar damage to second-quarter earnings. In recent weeks CU and GA have been two of the worst performing stocks in the FTSE 100, as analysts have downgraded the stock.

And executives at both companies admit extremely competitive conditions in general insurance, especially in commercial risks, have squeezed rates to a level where it is very difficult to hang on to business, let alone make a profit.

But the combined insurer is planning to raise premiums. The two groups believe they can happily boost premiums on personal lines without

Sage: At a glance

Market value: £1.61bn, share price 1387.5p (+45p)

Trading record (half year) 97 98

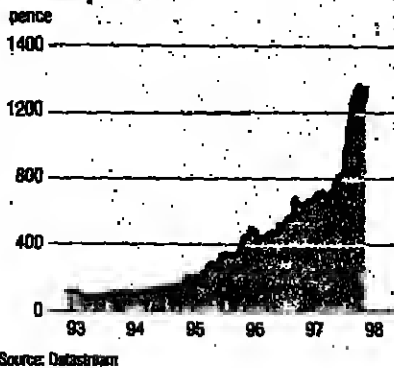
Turnover (£m) 74 89

Pre-tax profits (£m) 19.3 24.0

Earnings per share (p) 12.0 14.7

Dividends per share (p) 1.0 1.1

Share price



Source: Datastream

losing too much custom. But the big commercial business – the sort underwritten at Lloyd's of London – may remain unprofitable for quite a while. In that context, losing market share is a blessing and not a curse. And large cost savings from the merger will help profits.

CU shares firmed 14p to 1,090p while GA rose 10p to 1,077p yesterday, valuing the combined group at £14.22bn. Analysts forecast full-year earnings of 770p per share, putting the group on a multiple of 28. That sounds high. But formal earnings figures fail to take account of capital gains from investments, which would pull that multiple down to around 15. Hold.

Games Workshop shares fall to earth

GAMES Workshop, the Nottingham-based company had until yesterday enjoyed a meteoric rise on the back of its fantasy games based on figures like Space Wolves and Orcs.

From the group's flotation in late 1994, the shares had risen from an initial low of 106p to a high of 857.5p. Yesterday the sky fell in, with a profits warning caused by the strong pound, temporary stock problems and disruption caused by a move to new premises.

The shares plunged 225p to 632.5p, wiping £70m off the market capitalisation. The fall comes six months after the chairman, Tom Kirby, sold 200,000 shares at 705p. Profits in the year to May are likely to be below market expectations of around £13m.

Games Workshop has done well in the past to keep going in the face of teenage tastes and the company maintains computer games are a separate market to its own where customers buy and assemble model armies of fantasy figures.

But analysts say the company is also paying the price for over-pricing its latest models and have cut forecasts by around 10 per cent to around £11.5m this year and £14.2m next. That brings the shares back down to a slightly more realistic multiple of 26, falling to 21. Crucially, sales in the US are still strong and new games are coming on stream. The shares, though hardly cheap, may be worth a gamble at this price.

Safeway 'back on track for growth'

By Nigel Cope
Associate City Editor

SAFeway, the supermarket group which held aborted merger talks with Asda last year, yesterday dismissed suggestions that it had rekindled discussions with its rival as it reported strong current trading figures which lifted the shares 12.5p to 376p.

Colin Smith, Safeway's chief executive said he was confident the business had an independent future and that it was building a solid platform for growth. "We are not in discussions and we are not about to announce a merger. We think it is in the best interests of shareholders to continue growing sales and building the business."

The comments came in spite of some industry sources suggesting that the two sides have held discussions since the talks last broke down in September. Some industry experts say that Archie Norman, Asda's chairman is far more keen on a Safeway merger than Allan Leighton, the group's chief executive.

Sources close to Safeway said: "We do not want to continue commenting on market speculation. We are not in talks. We are concentrating on growing the business."

Safeway's comments came as it reported a 13 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £375m for the year to 29 March. However the company said it was addressing problems in product quality, availability, customer service and pricing which have held the group back.



David Webster, chairman (left), and Colin Smith, chief executive, try out the Sizzlers range

Although Safeway's like-for-like sales were ahead by just 2.2 per cent in the year, sales in the six weeks since the year end are 6 per cent ahead of same period last year, helped by investment in prices and additional elements to the ABC loyalty card.

Analysts were sceptical about the figures, saying the sales growth had been bought at the expense of lower margins. "Current trading is better than we expected but will it last?" said one analyst. "We have

seen these sort of false dawns with Safeway before."

Colin Smith admitted that "six weeks" figures do not make a summer but said the group's growth strategy was back on track.

Analysts questioned whether this was over-optimistic. "We would need to see more good figures than these to be sure if Safeway has really turned the corner," one said.

Profits in the first half of the current year are expected to be significantly lower than the first

half of last year as the group continues to invest in marketing programmes and its loyalty scheme.

Analysts were disappointed by the performance of the Northern Ireland stores. The stores, run as a 50/50 joint venture with FitzWilton, recorded a total loss of £9m. The company admitted that the costs of establishing stores there had been higher than expected.

Safeway's group sales in the year rose by 6 per cent to £7.5bn. The full year dividend was maintained at 14.1p.

Rates war halves profits at insurers

By Andrew Verity

A WORLDWIDE squeeze on insurance rates and severe weather claims have halved first-quarter profits at General Accident and Commercial Union, the two insurers set for a £14bn merger in June.

Both companies said they remained optimistic that plans to create a pan-European insurance giant would go ahead – despite what they described as "an exceptionally bad first quarter".

Canada's worst ice storm in living memory battered profits at GA, which is the country's biggest insurer. Profits sank by 45 per cent to £40m as the insurer paid out £72m. While CU was less exposed to Canada, its profits plunged by 61 per cent to £40m after it was hit by January storms in Britain and a spate of large fire claims.

Both companies also suffered from an ongoing squeeze on insurance rates for commercial business. Many insurers are believed to be running losses to offer cheaper premiums.

Bob Scott, who is to be chief executive of the new group, said: "We had significant claims from those areas affected by the ice storm: they were very difficult claims and we have only just been able to settle them. There is also continuing competition in all of our major markets."

Mr Scott said the company would begin to raise rates where possible. "It's important despite the very tough conditions to monitor the profitability of our products."

Executives said the results underlined the need for a merger, which would result in savings to shareholders of £225m a year. The combined group would command a huge volume of small commercial insurance business around the world.

Sir John Carter, who will step down as chief executive of CU in June, said the merger was on schedule. The first and second tier of management had already been appointed. He added that no decisions had yet been taken on redundancies.

Investment column, this page

C&W to expand Italian alliance

By Michael Harrison

CABLE & Wireless yesterday unveiled plans for an aggressive expansion of its partnership with Telecom Italia which could include the two groups taking cross-shareholdings in one another and inviting other operators into the alliance.

Dick Brown, chief executive, added that C&W was also focusing on a possible alliance in the US, where the telecoms industry is consolidating through a handful of huge mergers, the latest being the \$62bn (£37bn) SBC-Americitech deal.

Speaking at C&W reported a 13 per cent increase in pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits last year to £1.6bn, Mr Brown said the Italian alliance could see Telecom Italia take an interest in some of C&W's US and Caribbean operations.

Together the two companies will handle 17 billion minutes of international calls a year, making it the world's second biggest international operator. The alliance will have

access to 140 large urban markets around the world and Mr Brown said it would probably target an additional 60.

Mr Brown said it was possible C&W would choose to "dance with an elephant" as he describes the merged US telecoms operators. However, other options were to grow organically or launch a bid. C&W has a \$1bn of sales in the US and is its sixth largest long-distance carrier, concentrating on the small to medium business sector.

Robert Lerrill, finance director, said C&W might acquire part of Bell Canada's 14.9 per cent stake in Cable & Wireless Communications, which the Canadian group has decided to sell. C&W has a controlling 53 per cent stake in the four-way cable television and telephone operator created a year ago.

C&W is also looking at a flotation late this year or early next year of Optus, the Australian telecoms business in which it has a 49 per cent stake.

Vanguard hit by rejection of drug

By Michael Harrison

INVESTORS in Vanguard Medica, the biotech group, were left nursing a big headache yesterday after its shares plunged on news that SmithKline Beecham had ditched its key migraine product. Almost £50m was wiped off the market value of the group as its shares tumbled 27 per cent to 432.5p.

SmithKline Beecham has decided not to market frovatriptan, Vanguard's anti-migraine compound. It marks a dramatic U-turn for the pharmaceutical giant which only a few weeks ago included the treatment in an update on its research and development programme.

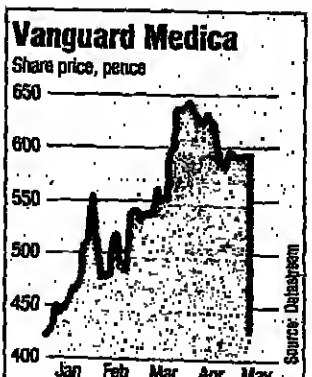
Vanguard insisted yesterday that it was confident of attracting a new partner to develop the migraine drug and third parties had already expressed an interest. Its argument was borne out by SmithKline which claimed that there was nothing wrong with the compound but that it had decided to concentrate its marketing effort elsewhere.

But analysts expressed surprise at SmithKline's change of heart, and suggested that the setback raised a question mark about the quality of the drug.

Vanguard admitted that frovatriptan was its key product and that its short term prospects depend on the treatment getting to market. The migraine market is currently worth \$1.6bn a year and analysts believe Vanguard's treatment could achieve sales of several hundred million pounds a year. Frovatriptan is progressing through Phase III clinical trials and is due to be launched next year, although it will face tough competition from the plethora of existing migraine treatments.

SmithKline said that it did not have enough resources to bring all its drugs to the market, which analysts pointed out was a remarkable admission given the size of the company.

SmithKline will instead concentrate on other projects such as Avandia, a new diabetes treatment and Idoxifene, an osteoporosis drug. It is also developing other migraine treatment but denied this was behind the decision to drop frovatriptan. Only last month, SmithKline had highlighted frovatriptan in its annual report as "showing particular promise" and stressed its potential to analysts at meetings in New York and London.



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Airtours buys into German operator

By Andrew Yates

AIRTOURS yesterday announced plans to enter the German holiday market, which sells the highest number of package tours in the world.

It is buying a 29 per cent stake in Froesch Touristik (FTI), one of Germany's largest tour operators, for £17.2m.

The deal will form the central plank of its ambitious plan to grow rapidly in Continental Europe.

Airtours has stolen a march on its British rivals who have also been vying for a foothold in the German market.

Airtours has an option to

take control of the group in 2002, and analysts believe that the company is likely to buy the whole of FTI as soon as possible.

Harry Coe, managing director of Airtours, said yesterday: "Germany is the real prize. All the UK tour operators have been looking at opportunities to get into the market."

Around 19 million Germans, almost a quarter of the population, took a package holiday last year. FTI specialises in providing tailor-made tours for Germans travelling to the US. It also provides long-haul holidays to the Caribbean.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
C & B Publishing (1)	7.21m (4.21m)	-0.18m (0.18m)	2.66p (4.26p)	-
Century Inns (1)	25.18m (13.21m)	4.53m (3.53m)	6.8p (8.8p)	2.4p (2.3p)
C&W (2)	9.92m (7.07m)	1.58m (1.41m)	32.4p (30.3p)	12.5p (11.1p)
Female (1)	157.85m (133.37m)	13m (8.6m)	6.51p (5.84p)	1.90p (1.80p)
Greyhound (1)	-	12.8m (1.3m)	10.6p (1.0p)	1.5p (1.2p)
Pauline Resources (1)	6.48m (8.82m)	2.17m (2.15m)	9.2p (8.4p)	2.5p (3.25p)
Salisbury (1)	7.42m (7.07m)	340.2m (420.5m)	22.1p (26.8p)	9.70p (14.1p)
Sage Group (1)	88.80m (73.55m)	23.97m (19.29m)	14.65p (12.03p)	1.07p (0.97p)
Washington Underwriting (1)	-	30.7m (10.5m)	24.9p (20.3p)	7.2p (6.8p)
(1) - Full (2) - Interim (3) EPS is pre-exceptional (4) Dividend to be paid as a Fd				

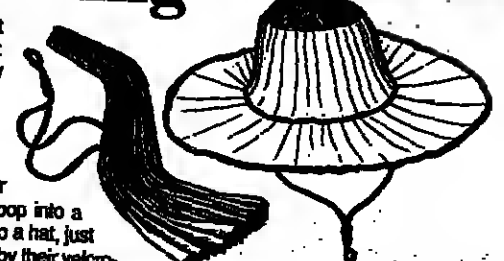
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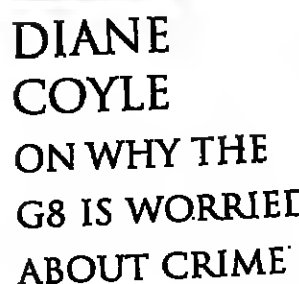
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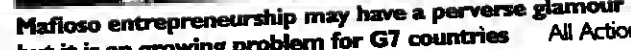
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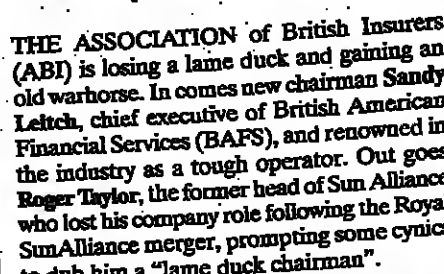
rest of André, who had \$250,000, sitting in his house. Peter and his family fled abroad.

But the FATF paper notes that all kinds of businesses where cash changes hands are popular with launderers — g



And whereas in a country like Britain, whose criminals seem to have lost their share in export markets just as steadily as its manufacturers, it is easy to dismiss the international crime problem as a distraction from the real issues, the damaging spill-overs are more obvious elsewhere. Russia is a glaring example, where the fact that it is hard to run a business that does not engage with the mafia

But when the criminal element grows too large it eats the foundations of the bulk of the economy from within, growing alarmingly now, exploiting more efficiently many multinational than the opportunities afforded by globalisation. If globalisation is to be able to deliver its potential economic gains, the G8 have to come up with more *effective means of pest control*.



In a rather un-continental, almost indeed Anglo-Saxon-style head hunting operation

and call it the "canuck back,"

...be like the recent past are similarly afflicted.

Commodity	1982		1981		1980		1979		1978	
	Price	Quantity	Price	Quantity	Price	Quantity	Price	Quantity	Price	Quantity
Wheat	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Barley	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Oats	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Rye	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Flour	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Feed	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Grain	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Hay	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Straw	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Seed	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Oil	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Meat	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Dairy	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Eggs	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Produce	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Textiles	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Metals	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Minerals	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Energy	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Transport	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Services	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Construction	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Health	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Education	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Recreation	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Religion	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Government	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292
Other	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292	12.92	1292

2007/0	July	894/00	Sept	76/0	99/00	2007/0	0
Vol			Vol		Vol:		
er Cattle	(CME) \$/cwt to		6705	Jul	White Maltz	(SAF) \$/cwt	
nk Buller	(CME) \$/cwt to		\$4,000	May	Rubber	(TCM) \$/cwt	
Orange Juice	(CTN) \$/55k to		15,500	Jul	Cotton	(CTN) \$/cwt	
lk	(CBOT) \$/cwt to			Jul	Cocoa Palm	(COC) \$/cwt	
CBT	(CBT) \$/55k bush		22,775	Jul	Soye Oil	(CBT) \$/cwt	
ax	(WCE) \$/30 to			May	Woolen Yarn	(TCM) \$/cwt	

Dealings	Sell	Yld	Fund
05445 KISS050			Amsterdam Growth
100890	10138	6.28X	Asiac
100929	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100930	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100931	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100932	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100933	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100934	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100935	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100936	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100937	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100938	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100939	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100940	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100941	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100942	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100943	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100944	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100945	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100946	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100947	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100948	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100949	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100950	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100951	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100952	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100953	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100954	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100955	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100956	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100957	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100958	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100959	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100960	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100961	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100962	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100963	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100964	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100965	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100966	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100967	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100968	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100969	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100970	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100971	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100972	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100973	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100974	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100975	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100976	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100977	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100978	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100979	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100980	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100981	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100982	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100983	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100984	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100985	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100986	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100987	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100988	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100989	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100990	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100991	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100992	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100993	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100994	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100995	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100996	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100997	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100998	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
100999	10139	6.28X	Asiatic
101000	10139	6.28X	Asiatic

200	122.00	0.87X	Extra Inc Acc
270	122.70	0.87X	FTSE 100
130	131.93	0.87X	FTSE 100 Acc
Longears Ltd			German Growth
12171			

0.00	2280.00	3.37	Grudewitz	Grudewitz	Grudewitz	Grudewitz
5.30	197.20	1.58	Prudential Unit Trusts Ltd	Prudential Unit Trusts Ltd	Prudential Unit Trusts Ltd	Prudential Unit Trusts Ltd
7.40	270.00	1.56	51-89 Wford HRI, Wford, Essex, IG1 2DL	51-89 Wford HRI, Wford, Essex, IG1 2DL	51-89 Wford HRI, Wford, Essex, IG1 2DL	51-89 Wford HRI, Wford, Essex, IG1 2DL
6.60	248.40	0.00	IFA Dealing 0345 835505	IFA Dealing 0345 835505	IFA Dealing 0345 835505	IFA Dealing 0345 835505

A more extensive list of units is published on Wednesdays in

European Cup-Winners' Cup final: Italian substitute strikes out stalemate to signal end of Stuttgart's challenge

Zola's instant impact for Chelsea

By Phil Shaw
in Stockholm

Chelsea
VFB Stuttgart

GIANFRANCO ZOLA, with a single flash of the brilliance which once made him a fixture with the *Azzurri*, sparked a rhapsody in blue with the goal which restored the European Cup-Winners' Cup to Chelsea after a gap of 27 years in the Rasunda Stadium last night.

With only his second touch after being introduced as a substitute 19 minutes from time, Zola secured a deserved victory over a Stuttgart side who flattered to deceive. The dismissal of Dan Petrescu, for a foul on Murat Yakin 15 minutes later, could not diminish Chelsea's joy. The Germans also finished with 10 men following a stoppage-time red card for Gerhard Poschner.

The setting could hardly have provided a more vivid contrast with Chelsea's last visit to Scandinavia, at the blizzard-bound Norwegian outpost of Tromsø last October. The sun was just setting on a balmy day in the Swedish capital as combat commenced. Instead of a snow-covered huddle, some 16,000 Chelsea fans, clad almost exclusively in replica shirts, began the evening in vociferous voice.

As they roared out that most incongruous of anthems, the one about 10 men going to mow a meadow, it became apparent that the much-criticised pitch had indeed been cut and rolled overnight. However, the numerous threadbare patches scarcely made it a suitable surface for such an occasion.

The conditions may have had some influence on the decision to leave Gianfranco Zola on the bench. The diminutive Italian, who had missed the previous three matches because of a groin injury, gave way to the towering Tore Andre Flo. Graeme Le Saux also missed out because of a calf strain, prompting Gianluca Vialli to call up Danny Granville.

Stuttgart, who were without the suspended libero Frank Verlaat, have leaked goals repeatedly in the second half of the season. With Chelsea's back line also noted for their largesse, there was an openness to the exchanges not normally seen in European finals.

Although the first chance went to Chelsea - a shot which Roberto di Matteo scuffed wide after only five minutes - the better opportunities belonged to their opponents. Much of the danger stemmed from the elusiveness of Stuttgart's lavishly



Gianluca Vialli, Chelsea's player-manager (left), rises to the ball ahead of Stuttgart's Thomas Berthold during last night's Cup-Winners' Cup final in Stockholm. Photograph: Reuters

gifted midfielder Krassimir Balakov.

Chelsea might have used a man-marker, such as Eddie Newton, to curb the Bulgarian's wiliness. In the event, Dennis Wise stayed closest to him, one first-half flashpoint earning the Englishman a yellow card. Yet Balakov still broke free in pursuit of Fredi Bobic's pass in the 19th minute, forcing an important parry from Ed de Gooijer.

Even before that, Bobic had dragged an angled shot wide following a sliced clearance by

Steve Clarke, while Thomas Berthold's header from a Balakov corner also missed. Chelsea threatened at set-pieces, with Flo heading narrowly over after one free-kick.

As half-time approached, however, Gustavo Poyet brought a desperate save from Franz Wohlfahrt. Wise beat the goalkeeper from fully 25 yards, but his shot was slightly off-target.

The absence of Le Saux deprived Chelsea of one of their main sources of crosses, which meant they were seldom able to

exploit Flo's strength in the air. Ironically, Zola's long-striding replacement delivered precisely the kind of centre he himself craved shortly after half-time, only for a German head to clear as Poyet climbed to meet it.

Chelsea picked up the clearance and maintained the pressure on Stuttgart. A neat move ended with Wise, lurking outside the penalty area, pulling his drive only inches wide of the upright.

The defensive slackness which allowed Stuttgart to carve through all too easily during the

early stages seemed to have been put behind them after half-time. Michael Duberry and Frank Leboeuf kept a tighter rein on the front two, while Balakov's only contribution to his team's faltering efforts in the second period was a free-kick from the "D" which came to grief on the blue-shirted defensive wall.

A pattern of steady Chelsea pressure, albeit largely bereft of penetration, was duly established. Granville, the 23-year-old reserve full-back who cost a mere £250,000 from Cam-

bridge United, proved himself a hard working understudy for Le Saux. He might even have broken the deadlock after 67 minutes with a low drive through a crowded penalty area, but Wohlfahrt dived the ball diving to his right.

In an inspired attempt to turn advantage into a precious breakthrough, the Chelsea coach, Graham Rix, finally summoned Zola with less than 20 minutes remaining. The consequences were dramatic.

With his first touch, the substitute gave the ball away. His next buried a glorious rising shot into the top left corner of the Stuttgart net, after Wise had sent him scampering through the centre.

Chelsea (4-4-2): De Gooijer; Clarke, Duberry, Leboeuf, Granville; Poyet, Wise, Di Matteo, Floy (Switzerland); Flo (Zola, 73). Substitutes not used: M. Hughes, Myers, Charney, Morris, Fitzpatrick (69).

VFB Stuttgart (4-2-3-2): Wohlfahrt; Vialli, Schuster (Eidson, 23), Berthold; Hahn (Djordevic, 76), Bobic, Poschner; Poyet, Hahn (Giles, 75), Bobic, Alphonso. Substitutes in: Bernd Becker, Liscov, Skovranek, Ziegler (84). Referee: S. Thoenen (Italy).

Nationwide play-offs, page 27

Pienaar accused in Luyt's outburst

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

LOUIS LUYT was never likely to go quietly. Springbok rugby's disgraced ex-president bade a predictably undignified farewell yesterday by branding South Africa's white minority as "spineless" and attempting to tarnish the reputation of Francois Pienaar, the heroic captain of the 1995 World Cup winners.

Luyt relinquished his iron grip on the South African Rugby Football Union last week following a concerted government-backed campaign by the National Sports Council, which accused him of allowing racism, corruption and nepotism to flourish unchecked in the Springbok hierarchy. As a result, the NSC yesterday rescinded its call for a renewed international boycott and gave its blessing to a summer "fast" programme featuring visits from Ireland, Wales, England, Australia and New Zealand.

However, Luyt gatecrashed the peace declaration by lambasting former colleagues in the highest echelons of South African rugby. "White people no longer believe they can protect what is important to them," he said in an interview with *Volksblad*, an Afrikaans newspaper. "They are spineless. There is no marrow left in their bones."

He went on to accuse Pienaar, who inspired Saracens to victory in last Saturday's Telser's Bitter Cup final, of accepting more than £180,000 to talk his Test colleagues out of joining Kerry Packer's proposed rebel circus almost three years ago - a deal Luyt alleged was kept secret from the Springbok squad.

Pienaar, already deeply offended by Luyt's earlier description of him as a "Judas", reacted with an outburst of righteous anger. "He must stop his accusations and if he continues to call me a 'Judas', he has a big problem," he said.

South African rugby was given a reminder yesterday that some things are more important than political intrigue and public back-biting, when the international Dick Muir retired. The 33-year-old Western Province centre temporarily lost feeling in an arm and leg after a collision last month and doctors warned that he risked paralysis by continuing to play.

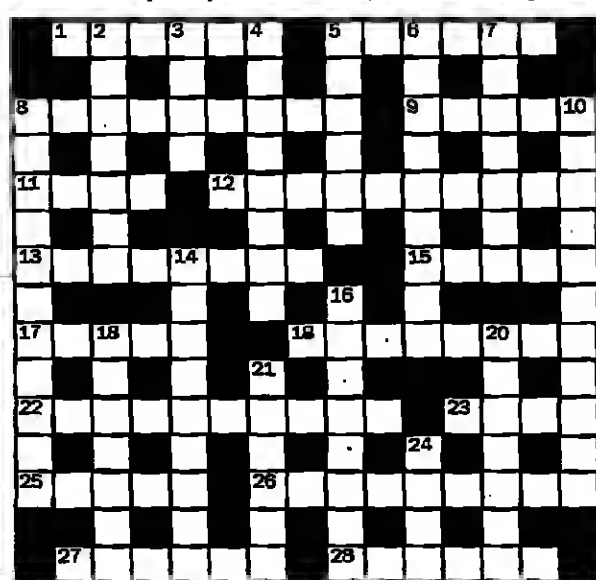
Greenwood out of tour, page 26

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3618 Thursday 14 May

By Mass

Wednesday's solution



- ACROSS**
- 1 Tough cop's quit pre-empt (6)
 - 5 Sponge has urge to enter pub (6)
 - 8 Press icon's innovative schemes (9)
 - 9 Tows, pulling in last of ramshackle vehicles (5)
 - 11 Most of rubbish is in slip (4)
 - 12 Mediator has an instrumental part to play (10)
 - 13 Delighted with trendy European article - a watch (8)
 - 15 Form of item carried by GI? (5)
 - 17 I struggled with enveloping leaves (5)
 - 19 Skilful techniques rendering scenic SE (8)
 - 22 Smashed offbeat instrument (10)
 - 23 Score nil in sport (4)
 - 25 The Aga's rank? (5)
 - 26 Vague one, abstract, interrupting me (9)
 - 27 Pain gets the Parisian, and it pounds (6)
 - 28 Note about Sa cash found in mission (6)

- DOWN**
- 2 Discordant notes in strain (7)
 - 3 Gulls ignoring first of sea urchins (4)
 - 4 Gross takings of a tart (8)
 - 5 Love, accepted by crushes, infatuates (6)
 - 6 Doctor's hoarding antiquated, dead precious articles (4,5)
 - 7 A ground nutmeg's swell (7)
 - 8 Wide character of urbanisation? (4,7)
 - 10 It takes some beating! (11)
 - 14 At home (flat, we hear) chap's easy-going (9)
 - 16 Ruffian male in grip of misgiving (8)
 - 18 Exquisite fashionable present? (7)
 - 20 Warning hoot (7)
 - 21 Counsel reduced part of speech with formality (6)
 - 24 Fray (fighting) round East (4)

Henman succumbs to Rios' heat strokes

Tennis

By John Roberts
in Rome

EVENING shadows spread across the Centre Court at the Foro Italico and a gentle breeze eased the fierce temperatures, which had touched 100 F again. With the heat of the day went the intensity of battle, at least as far as Tim Henman was concerned. The Briton's game was stripped bare by Marcelo Rios's searing groundstrokes on the clay of the Italian Open.

Henman's torture was mercifully brief. He was dispatched, 6-3, 6-1, after only 55 minutes, the second set proving ominously similar to Rios's domination of the third set of their previous meeting on a concrete court at the Lipton Championships in Florida in March. On that occasion it was a 6-0 whitewash, but the difference was purely mathematical.

Having capitalised on the Frenchman Fabrice Santoro's dismal performance in the first round, Henman was simply unable to cope with Rios as the Chilean world No 3 worked his recently injured elbow into shape for an assault on the French Open the week after next.

Henman knew he would have to serve exceptionally well

against his occasional doubles partner if he was to gain time to play his first volley or set himself for a rally but, when he failed to impose his strengths, Rios pushed him farther and farther back until he was out of contention. A Chilean colleague asked Henman why he had not put more pressure on Rios. "Probably because I wasn't able to," the Briton replied. "When you play a person of his calibre, he's not easy to come in against."

Rios concurred. "I feel I played a perfect game," he said, adding that he enjoyed competing against opponents who serve and volley, but conceding that Henman "seemed to be playing too much from the baseline, but when he came in I passed him."

Henman had precisely one opportunity, as early as the second game. Having created the break point by luring Rios into netting a forehand, the Briton promptly hit a backhand approach over the baseline. Rios broke in the next game and again in the ninth, Henman compounding matters by double-faulting on the second set point.

Thirty six minutes into the match, Henman found himself endeavouring to make the score respectable, and whistles from the crowd greeted the more elementary of his errors. "The

thing is," Rios said, with the merest hint of sympathy, "he's a serve and volley player, and for him to play me on grass would be like me playing him on clay. I played pretty good, and had the game to do it. But I think Tim has possibilities if he tries to do it."

Pete Sampras, Henman's doubles partner here, defeated Magnus Norman, the man who denied him his dream of winning the French Open last year by eliminating the American in the third round. Sampras required six set points to take the first set and his Swedish opponent had treatment to his right shoulder early in the second set, Sampras winning, 7-6, 6-4 after two hours and seven minutes.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov, whose last tournament triumph was in a tented arena in Battersea Park in February, advanced to a third-round meeting with Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion. Kafelnikov, the sixth seed, recovered from a sluggish start to defeat the American Todd Martin, 1-6, 7-6, 6-3.

Krajicek, the No 11 seed, was too strong for Nicolas Escude, overwhelming the Frenchman, 6-3, 6-3. Alex Corretja, the Spaniard who defeated Rios in last year's final, was eliminated by Karim Alami, of Morocco, 3-6, 7-6, 6-4.

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